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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME I

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COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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Ronald Sam, Chair

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Raymond Collins

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Henry Deacon

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Angela Demientieff

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Benedict Jones

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Jack Reakoff

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Michael Stickman - (Telephonic)

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Coordinator; Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to call the Western Interior Regional Council meeting to order. Vince, would you do the roll call?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And then at the end of the roll call, I need to call Micki, Micki's waiting. We didn't know exactly when we were going to start. Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan is absent due to travel to Washington. Angela Demientieff.

MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

MR. JONES: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

MR. DEACON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Micki Stickman, we'll get on line right after this. Samson Henry is absent and I think Ron will speak about that a little bit here. That's it. We do have a quorum, Mr. Chair, and I'll just walk over and get Micki on line.

CHAIRMAN SAM: The next item on the agenda is introduction of Council members and sharing of concerns and topics. But before I begin, I've got some kind of virus and I'm hard of hearing, my ears are stuffed this morning, but I can hear good enough -- yeah, Tina, I can hear good enough, thank you.

For your information, I got a call this morning at 7:00 o'clock from Sam Henry, one of our Council

50 members, and his brother passed away about 6:30 this

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1 morning. He's been taking care of him as much as he could
2 at this time, so at this time I would like just a brief
3 moment of silence in remembrance.

4
5 (Moment of Silence)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I guess I knew
8 it was coming and I was worried about it for him. I'd like
9 to thank all the Council members here that are present.
10 Does the Council want to share their concerns at this time
11 or just introduce yourself for the time being.

12
13 Jack.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff from Wiseman.
16 The only concern that I had that I would like the Council
17 to be aware of is that there was this March 1 to March 10th
18 moose season that the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
19 tried to stop in the Bettles area and there was a -- this
20 was on State land, but it was the State throttled the hunt
21 down to three days but there was still really high harvest
22 there. This area around Bettles is getting to be really
23 heavily hunted and I'm getting very concerned with the
24 harvest levels around Bettles and on the Dalton Highway.
25 I've been working on numbers on the Dalton Highway to make
26 regulatory proposals for this next year on, you know, right
27 now I am working on trying to determine the size of the
28 population that would normally be harvested on the Dalton
29 Highway and what could be reasonably harvested there and
30 there needs to be a regulatory change for the Dalton
31 Highway. It's my feeling that a drawing hunt for the
32 general hunt would be the best way to go about controlling
33 the number of hunters there. So in the Bettles area and
34 the Dalton Highway area from the Bettles are between road
35 access on the ice road into Bettles and then the air taxis
36 flying people out of there, this upper Unit 24 moose
37 population is, I feel is being used extensively and I just
38 want the Council to be aware of my concerns with this
39 escalating hunting pressure in that area.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Could you
44 work on a quick resolution or proposal to bring before the
45 Board of Game on this because we haven't really been
46 hitting this hard enough on the Koyukuk River Advisory
47 Committee meeting?

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, the Board of Game

50 doesn't visit that area until, I think, January of 2002, so

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1 this next cycle at the Koyukuk River Advisory level and the
2 Western Interior, I would like to have proposals next fall,
3 I would hope to have proposals to start alleviating some of
4 these tensions, you know. As we squeeze the balloon in the
5 Lower Koyukuk, pressure goes other places and some of these
6 populations are kind of having poor calf productions. You
7 know, I think we're going to have to try to work on getting
8 some control on this.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you done, Jack?

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to start over here
15 with Henry Deacon, hearing from -- oh, Vince.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we just need to check,
18 Micki, can you hear us on line?

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, can people in the back
23 of the room hear Micki well? Thank you. Okay, so we do
24 have Micki on line, we'll have to ask his concerns probably
25 later on. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead and get them right
28 now while I can hear him loud and clear. Micki, can you
29 hear me, go ahead and state your concerns.

30
31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, you mean you're
32 talking on about Jack's proposal?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: All Council members concern
35 within your area or out of the area.

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The one concern that
38 I have with the moose management is that, you know, on the
39 State side, the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee putting in
40 a proposal for a five day restriction for the winter moose
41 hunt. The regulations stayed the same for the fall hunt
42 but Glenn Stout from Fish and Game was putting in a
43 recommendation of no cow hunt, so -- but every year, you
44 know, we do an antlerless reauthorization and this year we
45 did the reauthorization but we did it with minus five days
46 for the February hunt. It is a moose hunt over in Kaiyuk
47 and numbers did look pretty good over there, though, for
48 the Kaiyuk Flats area.

49

And one thing that the Council should know

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1 is that the guys from Kaltag and the guys from Nulato have
2 been doing quite a bit of wolf hunting this winter.

3
4 So that's about the only concerns that I
5 have right now, is that, we will be having five days of
6 less hunting in the winter, which is good, I guess. It was
7 -- it originally started out as a five day hunt anyway to
8 begin with so that's the only concern that I have right
9 now.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. I'd like
12 you to keep that item on board and revisit it at your next
13 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting. At this time I
14 would like to ask Henry if he has any concerns.

15
16 MR. DEACON: I'm from Grayling. I do have
17 a lot of concerns here, the moose population is really
18 declining in that area, some of it is sporthunting and
19 there's more wolves down there than ever before. So those
20 are two big concerns about moose population. And I don't
21 know what Innoko Refuge is doing about those or the State.
22 So, so far since about December, nine moose have been
23 killed around the Grayling area and that's just around the
24 town by wolves. So something's got to be done in that
25 area.

26
27 And sportfishing is kind of a concern for
28 our area, too, there's too much sportfishing going on. We
29 can tell the Innoko River by -- for the past few years,
30 it's not like how it used to be, when we used to fish pike,
31 that we catch them that easy, no it's no more. There's
32 something going on with the catch and release system up
33 there.

34
35 Another thing is the subsistence, the big
36 issue with the local people in the area, is how to be --
37 how to fish, you know, when to fish and that's a big issue
38 and the subsistence way of life for people like me that's
39 been doing it for many years. But it's one of the things
40 that we have to learn how to live in but not regulate it so
41 much that we just kind of -- and I don't think that sending
42 food to the village to subsidize that shortage, is not the
43 answer. Because not all people -- you know, they don't --
44 they can't eat Army stuff that's been canned years ago, you
45 know, we need something that's from around our area, some
46 fish that you can get now and then, anything that's
47 available there and use it wisely. Because, us, Native
48 people, we know how to use our -- when we need it we get
49 it, and that's one of the things in the -- so the wolves,

50 like I said before, it's getting so bad down there that

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1 people is hunting them. We as a village, in Grayling, we
2 pay \$100 for every guy that catch wolves, you know, so so
3 far there's few but it's so woodsy down there, you can't
4 really get them, you know, there's 10, 15 in a bunch right
5 there below Grayling. They try to get in the woods so, you
6 know, those kinds of systems should -- something should be
7 done on the State side or the Federal.

8
9

10 And I'd like to see more as Innoko Refuge
11 should be studied like the Koyukuk area because that's the
12 last place that the people will be coming into now, and
13 it's nothing really regulated there. It's not studied.
14 It's not studied. The moose population is going down to
15 zero and nothing's really going on or being studied about
16 it. So those are the things that's really of concern from
17 my area.

18
19

Thank you.

20
21

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. I think
22 we'll be hitting on some of these items as we go along
23 throughout the agenda so you'll have more chances to bring
24 this back up. Benedict Jones.

25
26

MR. JONES: This is Benedict Jones from
27 Koyukuk. I just wanted to touch a little bit on what Micki
28 said. The reason why we want a reduction to five days is
29 so people wouldn't overharvest the cows in the winter hunt
30 and there'd be less cows taken if there was only a five
31 days season opening. And as for Henry's concern about the
32 wolves, there is a trapper from Bettles area that does do
33 wolf snaring education in the villages and he had wolf
34 snaring education last year in Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia
35 and Galena and I attended that training session and it was
36 really helpful. And since that time, people started
37 harvesting quite a few wolves with snares after that
38 education and maybe this will work for your area since it's
39 really a wooded area. So anywhere there's kill site, it'd
40 be good to put a lot of snares out there.

41
42

That's all I have, thank you.

43
44

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Ray
45 Collins.

46
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MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Right in the immediate
48 McGrath area we have the problem of not having much Federal
49 lands so a lot of the things we work on here doesn't

50 directly impact us and we're having to work closely with

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1 the State. As you know, we've been working this last year
2 to try to get a plan in place that would reduce predation
3 because our moose numbers are going down. But in relation
4 to that, we may have a total closure of hunting around
5 McGrath because we're not producing enough moose now to
6 meet the local needs.

7
8 And we were having a discussion in the
9 planning sessions there talking about one of the things we
10 wanted to do is to work more closely with some of the air
11 taxis and guides. We see a lot of meat going through
12 McGrath that's coming off Federal land and other lands.
13 And at least in the short-term, when we can't get enough
14 moose locally, if more of that meat came in in good shape,
15 we could distribute it to make sure that elders got it. I
16 thought that perhaps systemwide, there should be a closer
17 look at that, maybe on the part of the Refuges and Parks
18 and others where there is -- well, not Parks, but the
19 Refuges, where there is non-resident hunting, air taxi
20 guiding and so on. Some of those people don't want all
21 that meat and we've had all the concerns with wanton waste.
22 Maybe there should be a more -- what do I want to say,
23 formal or way of informing those hunters that if they
24 brought in meat in good shape, that there are people in the
25 village that would receive that and make use of it. I know
26 people prefer to get their own but the hunting's going to
27 go on anyhow and there's waste going on. Could we maybe do
28 something in that area, long-term, it would certainly make
29 relationships better. I know, even on the Koyukuk we talk
30 about that's so far that by the time a lot of people haul
31 that meat back to Fairbanks, it's spoiled, even if they
32 brought it all the way in. Whereas if it was brought into
33 a village within a day or two of being killed, it could be
34 utilized there.

35
36 But it's something for us to think about, I
37 think, long-term, of looking at trying to make better use
38 of that or prevent waste by having it donated and used.
39 Just a thought.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, for bringing
44 that subject up again. We are looking at it and trying to
45 utilize this program to alleviate some of the problems up
46 around the Koyukuk River, too. So when and if we do make
47 some improvements or anything into actual use, we'd like
48 you to have the information available.

49

MR. COLLINS: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela Demientieff.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff from
4 Holy Cross. And I share all the same concerns as Henry
5 that he's already spoken to about the moose, but especially
6 the Innoko River. We need more help on the Innoko, we need
7 people to come out there and look at what we have left --
8 what's left of our fish and study them because they're not
9 there, even though the biologists say they are. We know
10 they're not, we live there. We need more help on the
11 Innoko River.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. I think
16 sometime during this Council meeting we will try to address
17 some of those issues and try and update everything on
18 problems in the GASH, Innoko area. Thank you. Yeah,
19 Vince, I don't see the agenda adoption in our agenda, so at
20 this time I think I would like the Council to go through
21 the agenda real quick and see if they want to make any
22 changes or additions. Take a couple minutes.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, in the future, I
27 would like to right after roll call and establish quorum,
28 I'd like the agenda adoption and minutes right in a line so
29 we can get those things over with before we go into Council
30 member concerns. The next item, Vince.

31

32 The reason I brought this up is because
33 Item IV, proposal review and recommendations and Item V,
34 the Koyukuk River Moose Management problems in Units 21 and
35 24, I think they are integral and we can utilize both Item
36 IV and V at once. I see three tables with three different
37 mikes up there so I would like to go -- as soon as we go
38 into proposals that we utilize both Items IV and V at once
39 because they do interact around each other.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just so
42 the Staff understand then, basically the discussion on the
43 Koyukuk River Moose Management plan and the Koyukuk Basin
44 Moose Co-management Team update and all that would be
45 covered during proposal review, correct?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: How does the Council feel?
48 I would kind of like to hear from both the Koyukuk River
49 Basin and the State Moose Co-management plan before we go

50 into these proposals so we can kind of zip through it,

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1 because they do tie into each other. Council member
2 comments. If we can kind of make these two presentations
3 kind of short and review everything that we've gone through
4 from both the Koyukuk River Moose Management Team and the
5 Koyukuk River Basin people, then I think just a quick
6 review of our plan, both plans and then I'd like to go into
7 proposals. I think we can zip through it right there and
8 alleviate a lot of testimony and other stuff. Is that fine
9 with all the Council?

10
11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Under B, I mean ongoing
14 wildlife issues, we have Koyukuk River moose, Units 21, 24,
15 2000 hunting season results moose population and status
16 report. Is this Glenn Stout or is it Randy Rogers?
17 Because a lot of our proposals that we have to go through
18 ties in with this -- Vince.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, I was consulting with
21 someone else. What Randy is politely saying is you have
22 introduction before if you so need and approval of your
23 minutes from the last meeting, I think is what he's
24 indicating, we jumped over a few items so he's being very
25 polite.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, sorry about that.
28 Before we go into minutes, then how do we handle the
29 introduction, do you want to handle that, introductions?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the way we did it
32 yesterday but maybe not appropriate for this meeting is
33 just when people came up to the mike, had them introduced,
34 I suppose that would be my recommendation again today.

35
36 For the record, though, for other Staff
37 that have come and all the agencies, State, Federal,
38 private and Native, please sign in in the back. It becomes
39 very important for meeting records for correct spelling,
40 correct spelling for the transcript and for minute-taking.
41 Also we're going to be using what are called the green
42 cards in the back, that's similar to what other boards do,
43 that if you want to testify you fill that out and then it's
44 passed to the Staff and moved forward. This Council and
45 all the Councils in the Interior generally have when the
46 issue requires people to be up at the table, invite them up
47 if they so desire also. So the cards will help us with
48 testifying. The scheduled times for testimony are to allow
49 other people to target time that may be at work or

50 whatever. And I'll remind you at 11:00 o'clock that we

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1 have public testimony at 11:00 and at 5:00, for those that
2 need to testify at a specific time and not maybe when the
3 issue is right before the Council.

4

5 So with that, I think that's it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I do have Virgil
8 Umpenhouer signed up so I would appreciate it if you do use
9 these green forms. Does that take care of the agency
10 introduction?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, if you'd like to use
13 that same way that we did yesterday and then maybe in the
14 future we'll go back to having everybody introduce. But if
15 they would just sign in and then when they come to the mike
16 identify themselves.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, just for your
19 information it's still my feelings that the sign in sheet
20 to testify at 11:00 o'clock and 5:00 o'clock was targeted
21 for village use and I would appreciate it if you do testify
22 when we call on you and you can also sign in on this and
23 request time.

24

25 Next item on the agenda is the approval of
26 minutes for the October meeting at Nulato. Do you want a
27 few minutes to glance through it?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, they're in your
30 file folder, in your blue file folder towards the back. I
31 wasn't able to get them into the meeting books so they're
32 in your file folder towards the back and this would be for
33 the October 4th and 5th meeting in Nulato.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move
36 approval of the minutes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a few minutes or
43 has everyone gone through it?

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

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1 MR. JONES: There was one item, and I don't
2 have the minutes of the Nulato meeting but there was one
3 item in the minutes that we tabled for this meeting.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you remember that, Vince?
6

7 MR. MATHEWS: No, I do not. Benedict, do
8 you remember what it was about, was it about moose?

9 MR. JONES: I'm not sure, but we tabled
10 something to this meeting.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Because I know you guys
13 attend -- all of you, yes, pretty much all of you are on
14 advisory committees so it's possible it was something that
15 was covered by the advisory committee. I don't know, I'll
16 ask other Staff if there was some other item that we
17 deferred to this meeting.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the Council and the
20 public has to bear with me, too, I'm in a different frames
21 of mind it seems like we've been meeting for a couple of
22 days already so I forgot all about this Western Interior
23 stuff.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to
28 give Benedict a couple more minutes to target this, if
29 possible.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to save me
34 from more embarrassment, the copy machine didn't cooperate.
35 All the minutes you have in front of you only have the odd-
36 page numbers, so I'll try during break to get you the full
37 minutes. But the two notebooks that I have here only give
38 you the odd pages so you only have half. So it might be
39 wise to wait until later and I can get you copies of these
40 and you can bring it up later on the agenda to approve it.
41 I apologize for just getting you the odd pages.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time I would
44 like, with the consent of the Council members to defer
45 adoption of the minutes. Okay.

46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Now, going back

50 to where I was, different agencies, we have the Koyukuk

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1 River Moose Management plan and Koyukuk River Basin group.
2 Yes, before we go into the proposal I want these numbers
3 out in front of us as far as 2000 hunting seasons results,
4 moose population and quick review of the plans, I think we
5 all know that it's been working. Go ahead, Randy and
6 Glenn, go ahead and state your name and your position for
7 the record.

8
9 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chairman Sam,
10 members of the Council. For the record my name is Randy
11 Rogers. I'm wildlife planner with the Department of Fish
12 and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. I'll give you
13 a brief update on where we are with the plan, really
14 focusing on just what's taken place since our meeting in
15 Nulato last time and try to keep it relatively short and
16 then Glenn Stout will follow-up with a little update on
17 some of the numbers in terms of population and harvest
18 data.

19
20 I'm happy to be here again to provide you
21 with an update on activities related to the Koyukuk River
22 Moose Management plan. My hope is that the Council would
23 vote today to recommend the proposed final plan for
24 endorsement by the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
25 Board. In follow-up from the meeting in Nulato, the first
26 significant activity that occurred was October 30th we did
27 conduct a presentation on the plan and discussion in
28 Allakaket with the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
29 meeting. As you'll recall that's the one village that we
30 didn't cover during the previous round of public meetings
31 when the plan was in draft stage. So at that meeting we
32 were able to provide information about the plan to the
33 committee and to some of the local residents who were
34 present. We had a good discussion overall. One thing we
35 didn't succeed in doing at that time was developing
36 specific ideas for measures that might be needed to
37 increase protection of moose populations and subsistence
38 use up in the northern part of Unit 24. You know, Jack
39 just suggested some specific ideas and we've all be
40 wrestling with trying to decide what could be done there.

41
42 As you guys are aware, we kept the plan as
43 a draft after the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
44 Board meetings last spring and kept it open for public
45 comment. The public comment period was announced in the
46 newsletter we sent out last May. We received very few
47 written comments, though. We actually got a total of six
48 comments and the main emphasis of all those comments was to
49 eliminate non-resident hunters from the general hunt

50 drawing. Those comments came primarily from a group of

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1 hunters that is from the Homer area and their concern was
2 that if there's going to be limitations on the hunting
3 levels, that Alaska residents should have the first
4 opportunity. Pretty much every comment we received also
5 noted the importance of predation in terms of the total
6 moose mortality there and concern that we do more to manage
7 predation levels.

8
9 Last fall at the Ella's Cabin check
10 station, I was there for one week, of course, Glenn was
11 there nearly the entire time, but I think most all of our
12 staff were getting a lot of positive feedback on the
13 changes that had taken place in the hunt there. You know,
14 we were getting positive comments on the improved situation
15 from both the local and the non-local hunters. There was
16 definitely less crowding, a better hunting experience. But
17 despite the fact that it seemed that we were getting a lot
18 of positive feedback, we thought we should take a little
19 extra effort to find out what all the hunters were actually
20 thinking and so we designed a little survey that we sent
21 out to every single hunter who had registered at either the
22 check station or in Huslia or Hughes and that would include
23 the general drawing permits as well as the subsistence
24 permits. We color-coded those surveys so that we could
25 distinguish the responses between the general drawing
26 permits, the subsistence permits and whether folks were
27 from the local area, Alaska residents outside the local
28 area or non-residents.

29
30 A couple of the key results from the
31 survey, I think overall it did verify the comments that we
32 had gotten at the check station, that folks thought there
33 had been some improvement, significant improvement in the
34 hunting situation. Let's see, 57 percent of the responses
35 rated satisfaction with the fall 2000 hunt outstanding or
36 highly acceptable. Another 27 percent rated the hunt as
37 average. So there's very few that actually thought the
38 hunt was not as good. Seventy percent of the respondents
39 thought that the regulation changes were needed. That
40 seemed to be pretty broad-based among both local and non-
41 local folks, but looking specifically at the response from
42 local hunters, 83 percent thought the regulation changes
43 were needed.

44
45 So I think that helped and the survey data
46 was presented to the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working
47 Group in their meeting held December 8th, 2000 and the
48 specific purpose of that meeting was to review the plan,
49 review the public comments, results from the survey and

50 consider if changes were needed to the plan or to the

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1 regulations before the plan would be advanced to the Board
2 of Game and Federal Subsistence Board for approval. We are
3 also lucky that it worked out, one of the representatives
4 from the Huslia area had dropped off the working group and
5 Jack Wholecheese was able to participate in that meeting on
6 behalf of Huslia. At the meeting the working group
7 recommended that further meetings be held on, at least, an
8 annual basis to monitor the plan and that there was a need
9 to continue, considering whether changes might be needed
10 down the line.

11
12 You know, just as a refresher, the plan
13 lays out initial regulation changes, many of which have
14 been accomplished and gives a general discussion of, if
15 further cutbacks and harvest are needed, how that should
16 occur. First, reducing non-resident, then the resident
17 general hunting and lastly, going to subsistence and, you
18 know, potentially Tier II if essential. But there's still,
19 you know, a fair amount of leeway for specific things that
20 could happen within there and so, you know, I think there
21 really is a need to continue meetings with folks to
22 evaluate the situation and if significant changes were
23 needed, even if the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
24 Board moved to support the plan and endorse it, any future
25 regulation changes would need to go through the full
26 Advisory Committee, Council and Board processes. At that
27 meeting we spent considerable time reviewing the harvest
28 rates and procedures for determining the permit numbers to
29 be issued for the general drawing hunt. In the end the
30 group recommended issuing the same number of permits as had
31 been issued for the year 2000, which was 258 total permits
32 and the group did agree that we should seek endorsement of
33 the plan from the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
34 Board. In fact, I'll be going down to Anchorage tomorrow
35 and most likely on Sunday, presenting the plan to the Board
36 of Game to seek their support.

37
38 Just briefly, I've passed out copies of the
39 proposed final plan that will be presented to the Board and
40 is very few changes from the draft that we had before, but
41 I'll note just a couple of those things for your
42 information.

43
44 We've updated the executive summary,
45 introduction and background information to include some of
46 the activities that have taken place since the previous
47 draft was prepared and also a little bit additional
48 biological information. We've added the Koyukuk River
49 Moose Hunter Working Group recommendation to continue

50 meetings on, at least, an annual basis or as needed.

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1 Beneath each action in the plan I inserted a status
2 statement to describe what has been done with the
3 implementation. Many of the regulations have already been
4 adopted and so that's clarified what the Board has actually
5 done. There's other actions in there that are more long-
6 term that will take, you know, hopefully will be
7 implemented over a longer period of time, you know, for
8 example, the Department working with the Fish and Wildlife
9 Service for habitat improvement.

10
11 Last fall, the Board of Game established
12 the intensive management population and harvest objectives
13 for Unit 21(D) and 24. The actual numbers established by
14 the Board are included in this proposed final plan.
15 There's also a little bit more information in there to
16 clarify the harvest rates in the Koyukuk River controlled
17 use area. And a short description of the process used to
18 determine the number of permits that we would issue each
19 year in the Koyukuk River controlled use area.

20 In a nutshell, those are the major changes
21 that have taken place. So it's pretty close to the same
22 draft that we had before, just updated.

23
24 And I'd be happy to answer any questions
25 but maybe for now, if it's your pleasure, we can have Glenn
26 add a little information on population and harvest and then
27 open it up for questions, however you'd like. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you, Randy. Are
30 you going to be around all day?

31
32 MR. ROGERS: I'll be around as long as the
33 Council needs me. You know, I've got a little preparation
34 to do for the Board of Game, so you know if this goes on
35 all day and we're considering the Koyukuk all day, I'll be
36 here all day.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think, you know, one of
39 the reasons that I ask you to come on early is because we
40 will go into proposals right after this so I would
41 appreciate it if you'd stick around for those proposals.

42
43 MR. ROGERS: Yes, definitely I'll be here
44 for the proposals and I've got -- Glenn will take the lead
45 on the proposal comments but I probably have a few cents of
46 my own to throw in, and comments there, too, but I'll wait
47 for the proposals for that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. Glenn,

50 quick update. I know we covered most of this at Nulato.

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1 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Glenn
2 Stout with the Department of Fish and Game in Galena. As
3 far as the harvest information, I'll just go through a few
4 of the numbers and compare this most recent fall season to
5 the prior year. This season we had 511 hunters check in to
6 the controlled use area, which includes the check station,
7 Huslia and Hughes. This is a little bit uncomparable to
8 the previous year because as you know, we expanded the
9 permit area so we had additional hunters that are being
10 counted in this tally. But even at that, that 511 total
11 compares to 736 for just the area down stream of Huslia the
12 year previous. As far as the harvest, this most recent
13 year we had 278 moose harvested which is broken down by 11
14 cows, 266 bulls, one unknown, compared to last year we had
15 369 moose harvested, of that was 93 cows, 275 bulls and one
16 unknown. So the biggest notable decrease in the number of
17 harvests was a drop in 80 cows that were basically saved
18 this year versus last year. I think that's the most
19 substantial increase event, I guess, that occurred this
20 most recent year. And then the number of hunters that was
21 decreased by basically just over 200 hunters. So I think
22 those two alone were the most dramatic impacts.

23
24 As far as the trend count information that
25 we got done that I wasn't able to update the Council last
26 year, what I'd like to do is just stand up there and I
27 don't know if I can get the mike up there but I just wanted
28 to explain a little bit, something that's going on with our
29 new trend count efforts that we're doing.

30
31 As you know one of the things that we
32 struggled with in doing our survey, our moose surveys, is
33 with budgetary constraints, we can't do these broad
34 population estimates for these large areas every year. We
35 just can't afford to do it every year. And one thing that
36 we have been able to do consistently is the smaller trend
37 count units. So what our statisticians and staff and we've
38 been working with Fish and Wildlife Service to try and
39 improve our ability to get an annual population estimate.
40 And so we've come up with and we're working on developing a
41 new technique over there. Basically the idea is a little
42 bit of a change. For instance, in 21(D), where we have the
43 sample unit, typically we would count small blocks in the
44 area, like down by the Kaiyuk, up at Three Day Slough, over
45 on Pilot Mountain and Squirrel Creek and Long Stretch,
46 wherever it happened to be, but we couldn't get a
47 population estimate for those areas we would just get these
48 annual trend count areas and we'd use, primarily the
49 composition data to help us get that, but getting an

50 estimate for the whole area is something that we've really

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1 been lacking. So with this new survey strategy that we're
2 working on now, we basically put a grid across the whole
3 game management unit and it's broken up in blocks and then
4 we'll select some of these that are important that happen
5 to lie over our old trend count areas to maintain some of
6 that data continuity, but we'll also randomly select some
7 of these sample units throughout the whole game management
8 unit to help us. And then statistically we can go through
9 and try and come up with a population estimate on an annual
10 basis. And the difference that this method has from the
11 previous ones is that we aren't going to be doing as many
12 of these sample units but over time, on an annual basis,
13 then it will help our confidence limits now and start
14 giving us a better picture of what that population estimate
15 is.

16
17 One of the changes that we encountered this
18 year and one of the things we're working on is, for
19 instance up at Three Day Slough, where the river comes
20 here, here's the Kateel, Three Day Slough comes around here
21 or something like that, our trend count area was --
22 basically took place all inside the Three Day Slough area,
23 a small area over here as well, but it was based mostly on
24 the drainage that is encompassed within there is where we
25 counted moose. And when we set up this design, these
26 blocks, didn't necessarily overlap perfectly with the old
27 trend count area so we're trying to keep some continuity in
28 the data analysis that we can compare the area, the block
29 that is inside our new trend count area but make that
30 transition to the new method that the blocks happen to lie
31 within, or something like this.

32
33 And so when we did this, for instance, on
34 Three Day Slough, the old trend count area that was done
35 inside there was about 89 square miles, and the new trend
36 area with all this other area outside of it is actually
37 going to end up getting counted, it was something like 150
38 or 160 -- we haven't done it yet, but that's what that
39 measurement's going-- and down on Kaiyuk, for instance, it
40 was about 80 or 90 square miles and that's going to get
41 bumped up to almost 170 square miles so it's going to be a
42 larger block of area and we want to maintain that
43 continuity.

44
45 And so what Fish and Wildlife Service and
46 Guy Hughes there at the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge is working
47 on is using the GIS to extract the information from the
48 moose that were just counted inside the old trend count
49 area portion of the total area that we counted. And they

50 can do that because we took GPS units up with us in the

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1 plane and we -- every time we saw a moose we logged it in
2 the GPS and if it happened to be on that side of the line
3 from the old trend count area then it won't be used in that
4 analysis. And so some of this data that I have right now,
5 we haven't gone through and basically taken the cookie-
6 cutter and subtracted that out, it's still that large area.
7 And the density information is probably not real
8 comparable, but I think the composition information still
9 gives us a good insight on what's going on. Because I
10 think that's a ratio piece of data that should still stay
11 the same.

12
13 So just a few of the numbers that I wanted
14 to give on that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy, would you hit that
17 mike over there?

18
19 MR. STOUT: As Micki mentioned Kaiyuk
20 Slough was one of the few areas where our calf numbers were
21 still up. We counted 27 calves per 100 cows there in the
22 Kaiyuk Slough, that was about the only area that was
23 actually above that target objective of a minimum of 20,
24 hopefully manage between 20 or 30 calves per 100 cows for a
25 stable population. And the rest of them were pretty much
26 substantially lower.

27
28 Let's see at Treat Island, we had 11 calves
29 per 100 cows, the Dulbi Mouth we had 16 calves per 100
30 cows, Squirrel Creek we had 14 calves per 100 cows. And
31 this is basically going into our third year where our
32 calf/cow ration is in decline. We also seen now our second
33 year where our yearling bull/cow ratios are also low and I
34 think that goes right along with what we're seeing, where
35 calves are down and then the next year we see a decline in
36 our yearlings too. So those are our big concerns and I
37 don't have all the data yet. I think I was going to try
38 and get that finished information. Once we get that
39 excerpt of information so it can be more comparable then
40 we'll get that together and send out, but at this point
41 until we get that sorted, it's kind of compare it and so
42 we'll still be working on that.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you done?

45
46 MR. STOUT: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Jack, you
49 had a question?

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1 MR. REAKOFF: What was your yearling bull
2 ratio in the Three Day area?

3
4 MR. STOUT: The Three Day Slough one we
5 didn't actually get done yet. I'm scheduled to fly that
6 and we had problems, we never did get the snow up there
7 until about the second week in December and so we're still
8 waiting to do that. We won't be able to do composition
9 information up there unfortunately but I can get percent
10 calves in the total population and have something to
11 compare and then get a total count.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Well, what was your yearling
14 bull ratio in the other areas that you did?

15
16 MR. STOUT: On Huslia Flats we had four
17 yearling bulls per 100 cows, Treat Island we had two
18 yearling bulls per 100 cows, Dulbi Mouth, six. We did do
19 some trend areas further up in Unit 24, for instance,
20 Henshaw Creek, Kanuti Canyon, Middle Fork and Wild River,
21 and I think that Lisa and Tim Krieg were going to be
22 talking about those later on. But the numbers up there,
23 those ratios are tougher to get at because you're counting
24 so many fewer moose up there.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

27 MR. COLLINS: Do you attribute the lower
28 ratios basically to predation then, increased predation
29 going on there?

30
31 MR. STOUT: Well, we haven't done a study
32 specifically to demonstrate that that's in fact what's
33 going on so we can't say definitively that's true. But I
34 think all indications are that that's the case. We have
35 documented an increase in the number of wolves up there.
36 We have a lot of circumstantial evidence, fish camp
37 problems, nuisance bear problems where people believe that
38 bear numbers are increasing up there. And we know, for
39 instance, that hunters aren't shooting calves and
40 yearlings. And you can pretty much explain the decline
41 just in sheer numbers that being that lack of those most
42 recent cohorts, the calves and yearlings missing matches up
43 pretty much with that whole number of what the population
44 decline is. So if the hunters aren't the ones taking out
45 the calves and yearlings and we can get that by the harvest
46 information then I think it's starting to show a pretty
47 strong picture in that direction.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: The winters have been good

50 then so there's not a weather factor in there?

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1 MR. STOUT: We've had real good winters.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Did you do a calf composition
8 in the summertime to see how the cows were producing as far
9 as twins and how the calf production was going?

10

11 MR. STOUT: I do spring twining survey up
12 on Three Day Slough and we did that this year and it was
13 actually a good year. We had high calving rates, somewhat
14 lower twining rates but we did have really adequate calving
15 rates.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: What was your twin rates?

18

19 MR. STOUT: I would have to look in my
20 packet, I don't know those off the top of my head.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: All right. Going back to the
23 planning group, I'm not sure why the planning group with
24 the 258 permits, with the reduction in the numbers of
25 moose, why did the planning group want to maintain that
26 high of harvest? I would like the Council to understand
27 their reasoning, if possible?

28

29 MR. ROGERS: I can start off on that and
30 Glenn might very well have more to add on it.

31

32 Initially Glen had recommended a cut back
33 in the number of permits and was projecting -- you know, we
34 didn't have new data but the data that he had from the
35 previous year was showing a decline so he was going to
36 project the decline as continuing with the lack of data and
37 cut back the harvestable surplus appropriately. So when
38 the working group took a close look at that, there's also a
39 number of variables in there that we really didn't have
40 good information on. You know, first of all, you know,
41 there was 258 permits issued that last year but in terms of
42 the total participation 103 of those people never showed up
43 to hunt. So you know the allocation to the general
44 harvest was based on a presumption that there would be a 65
45 percent rate, a success rate, but included every person
46 that got a permit. The bottom line being that Glenn's
47 calculation of the -- and correct me if I'm misstating
48 things here, but had determined that we could take 168
49 moose under the general permits. The actual harvest was

50 109. So what the working group did was consider some of

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1 these variables and say, well, okay, even if we do have a
2 10 percent decline, that if we issued the same number of
3 permits with the lack of hunters actually going out there,
4 that the group felt that the overall harvest would still be
5 within the sustainable harvest guidelines that are laid out
6 in the plan.

7
8 And there is a little bit of risk to that
9 and Glenn and I both pointed out that if we go that way,
10 and if we do have the decline going on, that what that
11 could end up meaning is a double cutback the next year if
12 our data shows that that trend we projected was actually
13 happening. The other safety net in place is that we will
14 have a harvestable surplus calculated for that fall hunt.
15 And, you know, that, as you know, takes into account the
16 fact that there will be the winter harvest and that's
17 subtracted off the top. That's reserved so that we don't
18 have to close those winter seasons that are so important to
19 locals.

20
21 But, you know, Glenn will have an emergency
22 order prepared to cut off the season, you know, should we,
23 this year, you know, get a change in the situation that we
24 have a much higher percentage of the permit winners
25 actually go there and hunt and conditions are right for
26 high success rates, we'll be prepared for that.

27
28 And another consideration of the working
29 group was that we took a major cutback in the level of the
30 general hunt last year. And if we go ahead and do another
31 cutback this year, which would start getting to the point
32 where non-residents are almost non-existent in terms of
33 permit numbers there, and very few general permits for
34 Alaska residents and if we don't have data to show that
35 that's really justified and absolutely needed, that we're
36 kind of going off a little bit on a limb and we could end
37 up losing support among the hunter public that we've had so
38 far for the plan.

39
40 So those are some of the parts of the
41 discussion that took place, with the bottom line being that
42 the group felt reasonably confident that with these
43 safeties in place, that issuing the same number of permits
44 would still result in the harvest being within what is
45 calculated to be the sustainable level.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Unfortunately I had family
48 problems and I couldn't make that meeting. It's a
49 rudimentary calculation that if you have 10 percent decline

50 in moose population that you should have at least a 10

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1 percent reduction in the harvest capacity. With these kind
2 of recruitment numbers, I mean how does the working group
3 -- where is their foundation for sustaining this moose
4 population at that harvest level? I cautioned the
5 Department last year at our Council meeting that I felt
6 that, you know, the seven and a half was too high to start
7 with. The way I calculate the recruitment numbers, seven
8 and a half is too high. So I have a problem endorsing the
9 plan, you know, right now -- I would endorse the plan with
10 the provision or the amendment that I feel that those
11 harvest levels are too high. There should be reductions to
12 stay -- and that's what we talked about at that planning
13 group, was to stay within the parameters of the moose
14 population and not try to get arbitrary with setting
15 numbers of harvest because the population fluctuates. And
16 I would be more comfortable endorsing the plan if it's
17 staying within the parameters of what the moose population
18 can endure. And if the area biologist feels that there is
19 a 10 percent decline in the population there should be a 10
20 percent reduction in the number of permits, at the minimum.
21 That's the way I feel about it.

22
23 That would be, you know, that's just the
24 way it is. I mean if your bank account's running out, you
25 got to tighten your belt or budget, you know, you got to
26 budget your moose. So that's just my position on that. I
27 don't agree with the working group on maintaining the 258
28 permits when the population has declined. And these
29 yearling numbers that Glenn just gave for the few other
30 areas is showing a mean of eight percent for calf yearling
31 production -- would be about a mean of eight percent. But
32 with the high predation, adult mortalities have to be very
33 high, they have to be exceeding 15 percent. So the
34 predation is up and your population is falling, you know
35 it's going down so you have to begin reducing harvest and a
36 10 percent reduction in the numbers of permits this year
37 would not be unreasonable I feel.

38
39 So I would -- when it comes to endorsing
40 the plan, I'm going to have to have a reservation on that
41 provision.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I was at
44 that meeting and I missed you but there was a few -- I
45 endorsed the plan as it is. I didn't fight the non-
46 reduction. I wanted to see another year of the plan and
47 the numbers that Randy threw up, I just didn't see any real
48 reason at that time to reduce anything. I guess what I'm
49 saying is, I've spent too many years working on this plan

50 that I just wanted to see it work another year before we

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1 made any changes. Plus if we use the numbers, we could
2 have our people -- the applications, turning in
3 applications -- because a lot of people didn't show up and
4 that's what I was thinking about. Because no matter what
5 we do we're going to have controversy down there. We do
6 have the moose numbers in the whole damn state -- and the
7 whole 50 states know about this, and I think that they're
8 coming up one way or the other and I felt at that time that
9 I couldn't really make any emergency cuts as long as we had
10 that emergency order in place for closure.

11
12 If the numbers keep declining, what I want
13 to do or what I look forward to doing is to put
14 restrictions in place like we have on the Kanuti controlled
15 use area where only local hunters can utilize calls and
16 only local hunters can utilize winter and early fall or
17 early -- late fall seasons. Without those -- with the
18 numbers being what they are, I felt that I couldn't really
19 ask for anymore cuts.

20
21 Anything else, Jack?

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I'm not saying I don't
24 like the plan, I am very satisfied with that planing
25 process and how it brought people together and how people
26 understood each other, the sport hunters and the
27 subsistence hunters, I think it was a very successful
28 process. But I do feel that the gist of what I was going
29 for when I was testifying at those meetings was to stay
30 within the parameters of the population and the biologist
31 requested, maybe too much, and maybe the working group --
32 but the working group should have, at least, reduced a
33 little bit. And that's just my position. But I would like
34 to see the plan work. That's what I would like to see, is
35 that it will work out to where the harvest will stay within
36 the parameters and that, you know, everybody will -- the
37 local people will get their meat and there will be a little
38 left over, you know, for the other hunters. There are
39 other hunters that have a lot of political pull in this
40 process.

41
42 A 10 percent reduction, I don't feel is
43 unwarranted. If you have a 10 percent decline of
44 population, 10 percent reduction in permitting would be --
45 it seems only logical to me, but I wasn't at the meeting
46 and things went by me and I'm just stating that right now.
47 That's what would have been my position, I would have been
48 talking heavily under that line. But Ron's been around a
49 lot longer and he's got more experience with these things

50 so I respect his position also.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Glenn.
2 Randy.

3
4 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair and Jack, I think one
5 thing that I want to emphasize that going into this year,
6 the working group did not change my projection for the
7 population estimate. I still projected that 10 percent
8 decline and I think since the time of that meeting that we
9 have had fairly good confirmation that things were probably
10 continuing as we expected.

11
12 The bottom line is how many moose are
13 harvested. And so based on that projected decline, we came
14 up with a harvestable surplus for that area. That
15 harvestable surplus is lower than what it was last year.
16 And that is the basis for what our new EO will go into
17 effect this year regardless if we even put out more
18 permits, the harvestable surplus is lower now. And we will
19 be putting it in place if we do approach that new lower
20 harvestable surplus, and that's pretty much the bottom
21 line.

22
23 So the way I see it, although it's risky
24 that -- for the hunter that's in the field, that they could
25 get shut down in the middle of their hunt, the working
26 group felt like, because of the way we did those
27 calculations, you remember we kind of had to say well 65
28 percent success rate and, you know, there was some fudge
29 factors in there, they felt like that was going to even out
30 and they wanted to see that go again, but they did not
31 change my decision point which is the number of moose that
32 are going to be shot.

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. That's
34 what I based my decision on by not fighting on the 10
35 percent decline. Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: The risk there is that the
38 general hunters may attain their harvest but the reduction
39 in the total moose to be harvested may have to be
40 accomplished in the winter hunts and that's what I would
41 not want to see is the subsistence hunters may have to --
42 you know, that narrow margin that's left over might have to
43 be reduced in the winter hunts and that's what I would like
44 to steer clear of, is the subsistence hunters taking any
45 kind of cut.

46
47 MR. STOUT: That's still a constant, that
48 winter harvest is taken off the top first, the subsistence
49 is taken off the top first and we still will shut down the

50 season to still allow for that constant winter harvest that

00025

1 we've seen over time.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I see. All right, good.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, that was the
6 basis for my decision, that winter harvest Unit 21 and 24
7 is locked in, those numbers are taken right off the top,
8 plus the area itself voluntarily reduced their hunt from 10
9 days to five days and I made it clear at that meeting that
10 they have to utilize the first five days which they are
11 granted for subsistence hunting, that the winter hunt and
12 the first five days were locked in. I expect those numbers
13 to be in place as soon as possible and that's one of the
14 reasons I based my decision on that.

15

16 Jack.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Well, then I feel a lot more
19 -- I didn't understand that point that those subsistence
20 numbers are locked in there. If you can, by EO, control
21 the number of general hunts, then I feel way more
22 confident. So I didn't quite understand that the
23 subsistence numbers are locked in but how -- when you issue
24 258 permits, you know, how are you going to decide when
25 you're approaching this cutoff point, how are you going to
26 stop the hunters that are in the field that have permits?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

29

30 MR. STOUT: We talked about this last year
31 when we faced this same situation where we were thinking
32 that maybe we would see a flood of subsistence or non-local
33 people using the subsistence option to come hunting and we
34 talked with the troopers and we were prepared to go camp to
35 camp up there and the good thing about the controlled use
36 area is everybody is pretty much accessible. You know,
37 they're right there on the river. Trooper Gibbons has the
38 ability with his plane to just land from camp to camp and
39 get the word out. We were watching the harvest real
40 closely. We had check stations there at Ella's Cabin where
41 we were seeing everybody coming out and monitoring harvest
42 and then every day Trooper Gibbons was dropping in on me
43 and letting me know what camps had moose and who was up
44 there, we knew who was up there because of our check-in and
45 check-out time. So I just feel real confident that we have
46 the ability to monitor the harvest during the season as
47 well as get the word out if we need to.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, remember one of

50 the ways we cut down our hunters out in the field is that

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1 we have two different times that they could go out, the
2 first 14 days and overlap with the second surge out there,
3 second pulse if you want to call it.

4
5 Anymore questions for Randy or Glenn?

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

10
11 MR. COLLINS: Yes, what were the numbers on
12 the ones who were going out as a trophy hunt, how did they
13 register, how did that break down?

14
15 MR. STOUT: The breakdown is as follows and
16 I've got a sheet here that I can pass out to you so you can
17 look at it more in your leisure. There were four different
18 hunts, 27, 28, 29 and 30, and we issued in the two non-
19 resident hunts, we issued 26 permits for each of those
20 hunts. In the first season of the 26, only 21 of them
21 showed up. In the second season, only 22 of the 26
22 permitters showed up. In the two resident drawing hunts we
23 issued 103 permits per hunt. In the first hunt 49 of the
24 103 showed up and then in the second hunt, 60 of the 103
25 showed up. And so that ended up with basically 103 of the
26 permits issued did not show up which Randy suggested
27 earlier.

28
29 Success rate of the Alaska residents, the
30 83 that showed up, we had a 76 percent success rate. The
31 non-residents had a 60 percent success rate. So it was 72
32 percent overall which is a little bit above, for instance,
33 we had talked about in our calculation of that permit, we
34 had talked about 65 percent success rate which we projected
35 based on previous years. It is higher than that but if you
36 were to go back and just count those no shows as
37 unsuccessful, then that would bring it way below it so it
38 kind of depends on how you want to look at the data.

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Is there a trend among those
41 to donate meat more than others since they ware trophy
42 hunting or what's going on in that area? I think that would
43 be a target group that might be encouraged to donate more
44 moose in the villages.

45
46 MR. STOUT: W e talked about this in the
47 working group quite a bit and we talked about this locally
48 and it's kind of a touch issue because we don't want to see
49 wasted meat and if an individual is inclined to do that, we

50 show them the regulations and the trooper and myself do

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1 have knowledge of individuals within the communities that
2 are looking for meat if that comes up. As a rule, though,
3 I don't try and encourage non-local hunters to do that
4 because I believe, personally, that the modern hunting
5 ethics suggest that if you are in the field to hunt, you
6 should be looking to take care of that meat yourself for
7 your own purposes. And so I'm not really, as a rule,
8 trying to encourage donation of meat because I think that's
9 somewhat contrary to that ethic, where hunters should be
10 hunting for that. So we do provide that but I don't really
11 try and encourage it too much.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, one of my biggest
14 concerns about this subsistence rule is that we have too
15 many non-local subsistence users and I think that's one of
16 the issues that Jack is targeting in the Upper Koyukuk, and
17 my comments -- my written comments and my oral comments
18 have been clear that we are accommodating too many non-
19 local subsistence users. If there's any way we can address
20 this issue, I'd like to know how and I'd like everyone to
21 keep that in mind, because no matter -- we're just getting
22 hit from the Dalton Highway all the way to the station
23 issuance of permits at Galena. That's one of my biggest
24 concerns and I just don't know how to address this issue at
25 this time but I want everybody to keep that in mind, the
26 non-local subsistence users.

27
28 Are we done with the working group? Henry.

29
30 MR. DEACON: It's a very interesting report
31 what you're doing for your area. It's really making me
32 think of my area too, that that kind of work program should
33 be implemented, because I think you've done a very good job
34 for what's been requested of you the last three or four
35 years. And I'd like to thank all of you, especially
36 Orville and we should have more people like Orville within
37 our area in the next five or six years to encourage our
38 local people to go to college and study what they're
39 supposed to be studying.

40
41 These are the my thoughts as an elder to
42 try to work into, and you know those are really important.
43 I know sporthunting is really hurting our area, you know,
44 but I'd like to know what -- from what I hear it costs five
45 to \$10,000 a moose, you know, that's what they get, they
46 say. And none of us here really know, you know, how much
47 moose we've been selling -- it's not -- I don't know what
48 to do about those things, those are serious things. Most
49 of the things that I have concern about, Jack expressed it,

50 you know, when is the stop line? When are we going to say,

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1 it's enough? Jack was trying to get to that point and I
2 appreciate that Jack was saying those things, it's very
3 important. When are we going to stop and say, we got to
4 start increasing -- we should have a number saying that we
5 have to go up instead of decreasing all the time, we got to
6 go up, not go down every year, every year, we should
7 increase every year, our populations.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: I also would like to
14 compliment everybody that's been working in this group
15 because I know we were the ones that requested it and
16 pushed for it and it's good to see that some good things
17 are happening. I also share Henry's concern, I hope that
18 we can use this model and implement it other places where
19 issues are, like in the Innoko, where there are growing
20 issues.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Vince.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, in response to Henry,
25 Henry, later in the agenda we'll be talking about the
26 preliminary discussions on setting up a process for the
27 GASH area. That was touched a little bit on yesterday when
28 we discussed the fish projects, Henry, that there was some
29 money that was available for looking at -- and we'll come
30 up with a better term as we move this along, but some kind
31 of conflict resolution forum or some kind of conflict forum
32 for the GASH area and that's going to be discussed later in
33 the agenda. So there is positive movement which two
34 meetings ago, if I remember correctly, this Council sent a
35 letter to the State encouraging that and then has, in two
36 or three annual reports requested that. So now it looks
37 like all the forces are lining up to have some kind of
38 process in the GASH area. But we'll need your assistance
39 and Angela's assistance and the full Council's assistance
40 in making sure that we get village support for that to make
41 it work and other interest groups. So that will be
42 discussed later but I want to make sure Henry knows that
43 his request over the years is now finally getting close to
44 having some kind of process.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Henry,
47 for your information, this Koyukuk River Moose Management
48 plan and membership of this, the people that took part in
49 developing this plan and everything is being looked at

50 throughout the state. The people from the coast are

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1 looking at it and just for your information we have been
2 pushing for a copy of this plan to be put in place for the
3 GASH/Innoko area, but then again it has to be brought forth
4 -- the issue has to be brought forth by the local
5 residents. We fought tooth and nail to get this on the
6 floor but we are addressing the issue and we will be also
7 addressing the issue of the user conflict within the fish
8 management for your area, so we are working on it. It's
9 just a matter of putting it in place. And for the public
10 and for Council member's concern, by spending so much time
11 on this I think that after we get over with this and Mike
12 Walleri, we'll go directly into proposals and after that I
13 don't see anything on the agenda that people really have to
14 show up for, if that's fine with everyone. Are you done
15 Randy and Glenn?

16
17 MR. STICKMAN: Chairman Sam, I have a
18 concern for Randy and Glenn.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki, go right ahead, I'm
21 sorry if I missed you there, I'm just used to looking at
22 people on the table. Go right ahead, Micki.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The one concern that
25 I have is people from -- these are Alaska residents but I
26 did talk to some people that drove up the Koyukuk River and
27 they did their hunting but they went up the river and they
28 went outside of the controlled use area. I was wondering,
29 is there a lot of people that do that? Because if they're
30 going that far up and, you know, they're going into
31 traditional subsistence users area, if they're going
32 outside of the controlled use area.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, do you have an
35 answer?

36
37 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair, Micki, we did have
38 quite a few hunters that decided they wanted to try the
39 Kateel and that was pretty much the only area that they
40 really took that option. Mostly it was people where they
41 had a party of hunters and maybe two or three out of a
42 party of four or six drew permits so they had it in their
43 mind that they were going to try to hunt there on the
44 boundary of the controlled use area and I think they
45 learned their lesson in one year that it's not going to be
46 very effective. Because the water level on the Kateel is
47 real unpredictable. They tore up a couple motors, the
48 people trying to get up there. And the moose density,
49 basically drops off pretty substantially once you get

50 outside of the controlled use area upstream of the Huslia.

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1 There was a lot of people in there trying that option I
2 really didn't get any very good responses back from hunters
3 that tried that. They just weren't very happy with it.
4 And I really think that that is going to take care of
5 itself.

6
7 I am aware of one boat that drove all the
8 way up past Huslia and up Hog River, other than the guided
9 individuals, there was only one group that took that upon
10 themselves to try that option and they got back, they got a
11 couple moose, but they were all pretty tired, they were
12 pretty weary from the trip and I think that there will be
13 very few people that will try that option as well. So as
14 far as people accessing the Koyukuk controlled use area
15 just outside of it, I don't think that's something that's
16 going to happen.

17
18 Another potential that we watch for is
19 maybe some roll-off over onto the Nowitna River. And I
20 think last year, 1999, I think we had like 152 hunters in
21 that area and we watched that real closely and this year we
22 had 154. I think it was about that, a real negligible
23 response in that respect. But throughout the Yukon, you
24 know, we are going to continue to watch that and it will
25 certainly be something we will watch for in the future.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn.

28
29 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks Glenn. The
30 guys I did talk to were the guys that went up to the Hog
31 River.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. I think
34 we're beating on a dead dog now, can we -- okay, Benedict.

35
36 MR. JONES: Yeah, Randy, I was just looking
37 at your -- on Page 25, Action 3-1-1 grizzly bear, has the
38 Board taken any action on this, taking grizzly bear on a
39 yearly basis instead of every four years for no-residents
40 and then residents?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. We
43 have two proposals, I think there's two or three proposals,
44 or at least one on our agenda addressing this issue, too,
45 is that the one you're talking about?

46
47 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I believe you're talking
48 about 3.1.1 there, and there is a brief status statement
49 there that indicates the Board of Game did adopt the

50 recommended regulation changes so that you can take one

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1 brown bear per year in Units 21 and 24. That counts
2 against the one bear per four years that applies in any
3 other areas of the state. Do you have anything further on
4 that? So basically that has been implemented and, you
5 know, hopefully will increase the harvest of predators
6 there.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, for your
9 information, we did cover bear in Unit 21 and 24 yesterday
10 and we will be discussing this brown bear permit. Has
11 there been any kind of efforts to harvest these brown
12 grizzly bears by guides in this area?

13
14 MR. STOUT: I think that they probably
15 would if they could but I think the demand is a real
16 problem.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. For your
19 information it's just one of our ways of trying to
20 alleviate the situation by granting more hunting time to
21 the local guys that we do have in this area. Are we done?
22 Randy.

23
24 MR. ROGERS: I just wanted to make a quick
25 comment for the benefit of folks in the room here. Since
26 we just started referring to this proposed final version of
27 the plan, I was unable to make enough copies to have a
28 stack available but it is almost identical to the one that
29 shows up in the Western Interior book with the very few
30 exceptions I noted. So, you know, folks could refer to the
31 one in their book and it would show close to the same thing
32 but would not include that status statement, which I just
33 read.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

36
37 MR. ROGERS: I apologize for that.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we pretty much done?
40 Okay, I'll just ask that you two be around for our proposal
41 deliberations. Mike Walleri, did you have anything to
42 present before we go into proposals? Mike Walleri is the
43 attorney for the Koyukuk River Basin Co-Management Team.
44 How many of your team members are present and are you still
45 affiliated with Tanana Chiefs?

46 MR. WALLERI: No, I'm not still affiliated
47 with Tanana Chiefs. At the current time none of the
48 Koyukuk River Team Members are here at the present time.

49

But I would like to make a couple of

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1 comments in terms of the plan itself. As you are aware
2 there are three proposals from the team that are currently
3 on the agenda and the -- but to just recap some of the
4 issues about the plan itself. Frankly, we've come a long
5 way since 1997 when this process started. And I think that
6 it's a fair observation to make that this planning process
7 has brought the hunters working group and the K-River team,
8 the State and Federal officials much closer in terms of
9 their understanding of what's going on out there and what
10 should be done to regulate and preserve the moose
11 population.

12
13 But I think it's important to recap where
14 we've been on this controversy. In 1998 and 1999, actually
15 up through the end of 1999, the current situation was very
16 different than it is today, in terms of the regulatory
17 system in place and the perceptions of the populations of
18 moose in the Koyukuk River. In 1998 and 1999, actually
19 through December of 1999, the ADF&G was estimating that the
20 population of the moose in GMU 21(D) and 24 and, of course,
21 within the Koyukuk controlled use area was much higher than
22 we are estimating today. They were basically suggesting
23 harvest rates within those two GMUs at seven percent at
24 that time. The villages within the region that formed the
25 K-River team and its predecessor generally had a different
26 view, believing that the moose population was in severe
27 decline and primarily through cooperation and advocacy by
28 the Federal biologists in the area, this perception was
29 clarified and we saw that, in fact, yes, as of January in
30 year 2000, ADF&G substantially revised downward their
31 population estimates of the moose in these two areas on a
32 magnitude of about 15 to 20 percent. Those are fairly
33 large adjustments.

34
35 As a result of that, what is interesting
36 though, is that the plan today continues to estimate
37 harvest levels at the same level that was predicted or was
38 suggested back in December of 1999, and that is on the
39 order of a magnitude of seven percent, between seven and
40 eight percent harvest rates. And if you take a look at the
41 plan today, you see the same situation within the Koyukuk
42 controlled use area and both GMU 21(D) and 24.

43
44 It's also important to note that there's
45 been some significant changes in some other information
46 that needs to be considered. In particular, there was a
47 great uncertainty as to what the -- from a regulatory
48 standpoint, what the amount of subsistence harvest was
49 needed to be allocated to meet subsistence need. The Board

50 only, last year, the State Board of Game, only last year

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1 reviewed this issue with regards to 21 and 24 and adopted
2 determinations of need for 21 and 24 as a whole without
3 taking a look at what the actual need in 21(D) should be.
4 And of course, the Board has not even today calculated what
5 the harvest of subsistence -- what the harvest is needed to
6 meet the subsistence need in the Koyukuk controlled use
7 area.

8
9 As you're aware, the K-River team made a
10 proposal for a special action request to limit the non-
11 subsistence harvest which was denied by the Board,
12 primarily because of the commitment to the planning
13 process, and I want to address that in just a second.
14 Because that seems to be the primary articulated desire
15 here and, that is, what we need to do is we need to support
16 the planning process because we -- or the plan and we need
17 to support these harvest levels because we're committed,
18 politically, to the plan, not that we're engaged in
19 scientific management of the population of moose in the
20 area. And I want to say, very clearly, that while this has
21 been a very good political process and the politics have
22 been played very well here, good politics is no substitute
23 for good scientific management of the moose. And we have
24 to take a look at these numbers.

25
26 With regard to the plan itself, a couple of
27 points. Where are we now in terms of what the plan is
28 proposing and where the team, the K-River team has been
29 advocating that we should be going? We're actually very,
30 very close. And some of the discussion before the group
31 pretty much articulated some of those concerns and the
32 points of disagreement between the plan and the position
33 that the K-River team has historically always advocated in
34 favor of, the biggest issue is the harvest level. The K-
35 River team has always argued, since its inception that what
36 they want is a five percent harvest rate for the GMU 21(D),
37 24 and the Koyukuk controlled use area. What is currently
38 within the plan is a seven percent harvest rate in 21(D), a
39 7.5 percent harvest rate within the Koyukuk controlled use
40 area, and a five percent harvest rate in GMU 24, outside of
41 the Koyukuk controlled use area. And so what we're
42 basically talking about, 2.5 percent at the maximum.

43
44 Additionally, there is no -- one of the
45 interesting parts about the plan is that it does not
46 indicate what the subsistence harvest need is for the
47 Koyukuk controlled use area. As a practical matter, if you
48 take a look at the calculations on Page 44 in the proposal
49 book, you'll see that the area biologist is using a figure

50 of 250 moose for the Koyukuk controlled use area as being

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1 necessary for subsistence management. That's a good
2 number. That's a good number. And as I understand it, we
3 agree with that because that's the best that we have
4 available. But there's nothing in the plan that says that
5 that 250 moose within the Koyukuk controlled use area on an
6 annual basis needs to be allocated to subsistence, it's not
7 in the plan. It should be in the plan.

8
9 Secondly -- or thirdly, there's a question
10 of the authorized permits and there's a lot of discussion
11 in the plan and it really is a philosophical issue here but
12 it's also a legal issue and, that is, that the regulations
13 in place currently authorize 400 permits in the Koyukuk
14 controlled use area. There is absolutely no support
15 anywhere in the plan under any scenario to authorize the
16 issuance of 400 permits for general hunts in the Koyukuk
17 controlled use area. And as you've heard today, the State
18 has no intentions of ever -- at this point of ever issuing
19 up to 400 permits. But the regulations allow for it. And
20 what that plan says is that the -- and what it will be
21 argued in the future is that subsistence advocates came in
22 and said we can agree to issue 400 permits, that's what the
23 regulations are. That's what's in writing. And how many
24 times have we heard the situation, where Native people,
25 several years after the fact, somebody come back to them
26 saying but you said back in 1998 that we could have 400
27 permits here, and the answer is, yes, that's what you said.
28 That's what's in the regulation. That you can have 400
29 permits.

30
31 Now, it's going to be pretty difficult in
32 1996 -- or I mean in the year 2006 or 2005 to come back and
33 said, yeah, but what we really meant was 258 because that's
34 what they told us they were going to issue back in the year
35 2000, is 258. If you mean 258, say 258. Go on the record
36 and say it. If you mean 155 permits, say it, in the
37 regulation.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you arguing this plan?
40 Are we in court session here?

41
42 MR. WALLERI: No. No, I'm arguing against
43 the plan. I'm suggesting that there be some modifications
44 to it. And I realize, Mr. Sam, that you support the plan,
45 but I believe that what we're saying here is that there are
46 problems with the plan and there are serious problems.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.
49

MR. REAKOFF: Having attended the planning

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1 process, it was understood that to harvest the moose within
2 the parameters of the moose population, it was understood
3 at that time that they didn't want to have any more than
4 the '98 level of hunters, that was an unacceptable level of
5 hunters. So if you take 258 subsistence moose hunters and
6 you add 400 hunters to that, that approach is this level of
7 1998 and that's where that came from. They had to make
8 that provision -- or the Department wanted to allow that
9 provision of 400 permits in case the moose population got
10 really large, but they wanted to be able to harvest up to
11 the maximum amount, which the group had decided was the '98
12 level. That's where the 400 -- up to 400 permits came
13 from.

14
15 MR. WALLERI: I'm really -- yeah.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: And I would have appreciated
18 it if yourself would have been at those meetings to
19 understand those parameters.

20
21 MR. WALLERI: No, I was, I actually watched
22 some of that process. I was at some of those meetings.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: I know that, Mr. Walleri, but
25 you were there sporadically and that's why you don't
26 understand why this 400 cap was put on there, that's the
27 reason.....

28
29 MR. WALLERI: Well.....

30
31 MR. REAKOFF:in case the population
32 got to 10,000 moose and they needed to harvest these moose
33 or wanted to harvest these moose, they wanted to have that
34 provision on there. And that's why there's various
35 misunderstandings of what was going on in this planning
36 process because.....

37
38 MR. WALLERI: Well, I would seriously
39 disagree with you. There is no misunderstanding. Because
40 it gets back to a philosophical question. Yeah, you're
41 talking about authorizing 650 people to harvest moose in
42 the area and you're -- I agree with you that that was the
43 reason for it but you have to understand that when we were
44 approaching 650 people harvesting moose in the area, what
45 we're talking about is a 10 to 12 percent harvest rate
46 which decimated the area. And when you make that decision,
47 if you get to that level of authorizing 400 permits and
48 there's nothing in the plan that says -- that suggests that
49 at any point could you ever authorize 400 permits, the

50 point arises that.....

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2 MR. REAKOFF: That's another
3 missimpression. You're stating that the seven percent --
4 or the harvest is what curtailed this population. It's our
5 understanding going through a lot of predation factors that
6 the wolf population and the bear population is documented
7 as increasing and is the primary cause of the decline of
8 this population, it wasn't primarily induced. Hunting has
9 somewhat of a factor but primarily predation was a factor.
10 If wolf numbers declined, rabies went through the
11 population may -- and in the '80s was producing at 20 to 30
12 percent increase which would accommodate up to a large
13 human harvest. I mean it's misnomers as the harvest --
14 human harvest was the cause of the decline of this moose
15 population. It's our understanding, through the planning
16 process, the predation is documented and is increasing and
17 that's what the main cause of the decline is.

18
19 MR. WALLERI: Well, I don't think that's a
20 misunderstanding. The problem is that the only control
21 mechanism you have and this is a part of the plan that I
22 think everybody agrees on, the only thing that you have a
23 handle on is human predation. You don't have the ability
24 to seriously deal with the predator, non-human predator
25 activity, because it's primarily gets you into wolf
26 control.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have
29 and are you going to be present during our deliberations on
30 these proposals?

31
32 MR. WALLERI: Yes, and I very much
33 appreciate the openness with which you're receiving my
34 comments.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the next time you
37 appear before us I will ask somebody from the solicitor's
38 office out of Anchorage to be here, maybe that would even
39 us out and make us feel not so intimidated. Because we are
40 not prepared to try any case here or anything.

41
42 MR. WALLERI: I guess the last point that I
43 wanted to talk about gets back to some of the things that
44 we've talked about here already and that is, what is it
45 that is the trigger here? And one of the things that the
46 K-River team has constantly said, is that, what we want to
47 do is propose a system which plans for the maintenance of a
48 high level of moose population in the area. What has
49 happened here, as a practical matter, is a reactionary

50 response and we're kind of seeing that in the current

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1 determination of permit levels. And that is, we wait until
2 there's a 10 percent harvest reduction and then we
3 implement after the -- after the moose are dead, we
4 implement some kind of regulatory action. The idea here
5 and what has been advocated from the beginning from the K-
6 River team is the idea that we start off and we plan ahead
7 of time to produce a certain amount of moose and that we
8 not be reacting to declines. And that what has happened
9 here is kind of a ramped down process, in other words, we
10 saw large declines so we increased the limitations. We're
11 seeing smaller declines so we increase the limitations some
12 more until you get to a point where the limitations have
13 some kind of effect.

14
15 Another way and another approach to that is
16 to start off and say, wait a second, this is how many moose
17 we can harvest, this is what our population level is, let's
18 shoot for that.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Point well
21 taken, and how much more do you have because next time you
22 appear before us as a Council, I would request that
23 somebody from your Koyukuk River Basin Co-Management Team
24 make all the presentations and arguments. I think that
25 will make us all feel better. If you have too much more
26 we'll have to cut you off at some place. I'd like to go
27 into proposal discussions.

28
29 MR. WALLERI: Thank you. Actually, I don't
30 have anything more. The remainder of my comments were
31 going to be made with regards to the proposals. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Okay, a two
34 minute break for everyone to use the bathroom and grab a
35 cup of coffee, water, and then we'll go into proposals.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (On record)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, where are we?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: 28, 31 and 32, and then we'd
44 go back into the other proposals since everything is fresh
45 in our mind. The last thing that I need to do -- or
46 suggest on this, and I think it would be after the
47 proposals is an idea of what the Council wants to do with
48 this draft plan since, I believe it's going to be presented
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board in May, so the Board's

50 going to want to know where you guys stand on the plan.

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1 But that should be probably done after we deal with the
2 proposals.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would tend to ask
5 that we deal with it sometime today. So the first proposal
6 is Proposal 28, and what Page?

7 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, Pete can fill it
8 in and then we can get the order.

9

10 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, before Staff gets
11 rolling here, I suggest you check in with Micki and see if
12 he's still on line.

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: I'm still here.

15

16 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, Micki. Mr. Chair, the
17 analysis begins on Page 45 of your book under Tab C. And
18 Proposal 28 and 31 were submitted on behalf of the Koyukuk
19 River Basin Moose Co-Management Team by Mr. Walleri, their
20 attorney. We analyzed 28 and 31 together because they deal
21 with Unit 21(D) and 24, within the Koyukuk controlled use
22 area. And, again, that analysis begins on Page 45.

23

24 The proponent requests that the Board close
25 public lands to the taking of moose in Units 21(D) and 24
26 in the Koyukuk controlled use area except for Federally-
27 qualified subsistence users or holders of a Federal permit.
28 The proponent also requests the Board to authorize the
29 Refuge manager of the Koyukuk Refuge to issue no more than
30 45 Federal permits for the affected area for the harvest of
31 moose by persons other than Federally-qualified subsistence
32 users in conjunction with the State general drawing or
33 subsistence registration hunt. You know the co-management
34 team as they were formally called the Koyukuk River Tribal
35 Task Force on moose management.

36

37 Last year, the last regulatory year, the
38 Council and the Board dealt with two proposals submitted by
39 the Refuge manager of the Koyukuk Refuge, Proposals 47 and
40 48, they were submitted with the intent to reduce overall
41 cow harvest and the Council and the Refuge manager worked
42 on a revision to that original proposal which was passed by
43 the Board which did reduce cow harvest but did provide for
44 cow harvest opportunity for local users. As I mentioned,
45 the proponent did submit a special action to the Board in
46 August of 2000. The proponent's request to the Board was
47 to limit the overall harvest or the overall number of
48 general hunt permits issued by the State. The Federal
49 Subsistence Board denied the proponents request based on

50 the concerns of the task force were already addressed

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1 through the working group through the management plan,
2 management objectives, and harvest guidelines for the
3 Koyukuk River.

4
5 Since I gave you a report a year ago, there
6 is no new information to add as far as the population
7 status of the moose other than for two areas, Dulbi River
8 mouth. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in
9 cooperation with the Refuge did survey the Dulbi River
10 mouth trend count area and here we see continued declining
11 trends as far as the number of yearling bulls. The latest,
12 six yearling bulls per 100 cows. The total calves observed
13 during the 2000 survey was 46 and, again that's a declining
14 trend as well, neither of which are attributed, again, to
15 hunter harvest, of course. Same thing in the Treat Island
16 trend count area in Unit 24. The density, the overall
17 density was declining within that trend count area,
18 according to the latest surveys and also the number of
19 bulls per 100 cows is down to 16 observed through the 2000
20 survey and, again, this is not attributed to hunter
21 harvest.

22
23 As far as hunter harvest, further analysis
24 also reveals that less than 10 percent of the moose
25 harvested by local hunters occurred in the proposed closure
26 area within this proposal during the 1998/99 regulatory
27 years and the 1999/2000 survey periods conducted by the
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. If we consider the
29 effects of this proposal, Board action would close Federal
30 public lands to all users except Federally-qualified
31 subsistence users and holders of a Federal permit. The
32 proposer requests a reduction from 258 to a total of 45
33 drawing permits for Units 21(D) and 24 within the Koyukuk
34 controlled use area. Requests for that action to regulate
35 the State's permit system does lie beyond the authority of
36 the Federal Subsistence Board.

37
38 Current results from State harvest returns
39 and surveys from joint State/Federal population surveys
40 reflect there is no justification for additional
41 restrictions placed on the moose hunting in this area.

42
43 The Staff recommendation is to recommend
44 that the Board continue its support for the ongoing
45 planning process for moose in the Koyukuk River and a
46 continued participation by the Council members and also
47 Federal agencies. The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
48 Proposals 28 and 31.

49

Thank you.

00040

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, at this time
4 you'd ask for agency comments. The State's present at the
5 table.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we've got proposal
8 review procedure, can we first put it on the floor for
9 discussion?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
14 motion to either adopt or oppose. Because I've previously
15 asked that all introductions of proposals be brought on the
16 floor in a positive way but we have -- it would be positive
17 to go with the Staff recommendations in opposing or
18 rejection. The Chair will entertain to put Proposal 28 on
19 the floor.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, at the Koyukuk
22 River Advisory Committee level we always make a motion to
23 adopt the proposal, whether we're opposed to it or not. I
24 would personally prefer to use that, it keeps it clear in
25 my mind. So I would make a motion to adopt this proposal,
26 Proposal 28 and 31.

27

28 MR. DEACON: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's seconded by Henry
31 Deacon. For my clarification, is 28 and 31 basically the
32 same?

33

34 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, the next step is
37 agency comment, Terry Haynes.

38

39 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
40 name is Terry Haynes, I'm with the Department of Fish and
41 Game in Fairbanks. Although Department Staff participation
42 in this meeting may be a little sporadic, we are very
43 concerned and very committed to these cooperative planning
44 efforts as David James told the Joint Councils yesterday,
45 so we do have staff here for these proposal deliberations.

46

47 I will summarize our comments that appear
48 on Page 60 of your meeting booklet. And if the Council has
49 questions, I'll defer those to Glenn Stout or Randy Rogers.

50 But the Department does not support either of these

00041

1 proposals. The Federal Subsistence Board is being asked to
2 take action that would be inconsistent with the provisions
3 of the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan. The available
4 evidence does not support the assertion that hunting or
5 overharvest is the cause for the recent apparent decline in
6 the Koyukuk controlled use area moose population. The poor
7 representation of calves and yearlings in late fall trend
8 count area surveys during the past three years helps to
9 account for the population decline but is not a result of
10 hunting as calves are rarely, if ever, part of the human
11 harvest.

12
13 Conversely, wolf numbers are known to have
14 increased, though, grizzly bear and black bears probably
15 also have risen in numbers along with moose numbers during
16 much of the past two decades suggesting that predation may
17 be a primary source of moose mortality.

18
19 Moose harvest levels in the Koyukuk
20 controlled use area are well within the guidelines of the
21 sustainable yield and the estimated harvest during the past
22 regulatory year is within the guidelines set forth in the
23 management objectives developed by the working group.

24
25 And with that, we'll -- if you have
26 questions, again, I'll just defer those to Glenn or Randy.
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Glenn,
30 Randy or Terry Haynes? Jack.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Walleri stated that the
33 Department's number was all wet on this 250 subsistence
34 level and that was like an arbitrary level, as being from
35 the Subsistence Division, do you feel that those numbers
36 are adequate for the people who utilize this Koyukuk
37 controlled use moose population?

38
39 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think one of
40 the problems in dealing with in determining what the need
41 is that the State has developed amounts necessary for
42 subsistence uses, numbers for big game species in some
43 units and subunits, but we don't always break those down to
44 the specific pieces within these larger units. Compounding
45 that difficulty is the fact that the Federal Subsistence
46 Board does not make any amount necessary determinations, or
47 it has not yet. So whether or not that number is going to
48 accurately reflect the demand, I'm not in a position to
49 really tell you that right now. What we do have -- I don't

50 have with me today but we do have good harvest data from

00042

1 the surveys that the Subsistence Division has been
2 conducting in many of the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon area
3 communities, so we do have numbers about what's actually
4 going on. And I'm sorry, I don't have those in front of
5 me, but I know you're familiar with that information.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Well, what I was going at is
8 that, Dave Andersen, who's done 10 village surveys in that
9 area, including Galena, has stated in meetings that that
10 number would be adequate to -- for subsistence, and that's
11 where that number came from. So, again, being at all these
12 different meetings, I've accumulated all this -- I got
13 stacks of paper two feet deep on my shelf at home that's
14 avalanching down with all this moose stuff and that's where
15 these numbers came from. But I felt that that number was
16 what was currently being used and that's also reflective
17 that the people utilize that on a yearly basis and it was a
18 required amount of moose that people utilized there. It
19 was real -- fairly static numbers, whether it was harvested
20 fall or winter, these were fairly static numbers.

21
22 So I have appreciated the work that the
23 Subsistence Division has done in these moose surveys in the
24 Koyukuk River.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, when you said, static,
27 what do you mean by that?

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Meaning that those numbers
30 are from year to year, that's what the people need, that's
31 what they go out and get. They don't try to kill a lot
32 more or a lot less.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack, for that
35 clarification -- for everyone's clarification. We do have
36 door to door surveys on the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon. We
37 survey our people and we get all the numbers down and like
38 Jack said, these numbers are locked in throughout the
39 years.

40
41 What's our next step, Vince?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: The next step would be to
44 open the floor, but before that I'll just quickly say
45 there's no written comments. This would be the time where
46 you could have public comments from the public.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike, did you have any
49 further comments or Lori.

00043

1 MR. WALLERI: Thank you, Mike Walleri,
2 again. The proposals are basically very simple. If you
3 take a look at Page 44 in your handbooks you'll see that
4 the calculation of 45 permits is what the current area
5 biologist estimates to be necessary to reach a five percent
6 level of harvest in the Koyukuk controlled use area which
7 has been the historical position of the Koyukuk River Team
8 that they would like to see a five percent harvest level.

9
10 The reason for that is because the current
11 level of 258 permits is a 7.5 percent harvest level within
12 the Koyukuk controlled use area. What we're saying is that
13 we would prefer to have a five percent harvest level as
14 opposed to a 7.5 percent harvest level. The reason for
15 that is because historically that has been the level, this
16 7.5 harvest level is consistent with the historical harvest
17 levels which have resulted in declines. Now, I understand
18 the State's position that the decline is not attributable
19 to human harvest. And we agree with that, we've always
20 agreed with that. But the point is, is that, this is the
21 only -- you can't regulate the wolves unless you shoot them
22 and you can't shoot them, so what we're talking about here
23 is using the only level -- the only regulation we have
24 which is to regulate the human harvest and to drop it from
25 7.5 percent to five percent.

26
27 In terms of one of the earlier comments
28 from Mr. Reakoff, my earlier testimony was that the 250
29 moose for subsistence harvest, that allocation, we agree
30 with.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, you do agree with that.

33
34 MR. WALLERI: We've always agreed with it.
35 In fact, the 250 moose subsistence harvest level, 200, as
36 you know, is allocated to the regular season and 50 of that
37 is allocated to the winter season. And we have always
38 agreed with that, we have never disagreed with that.

39
40 Secondly, the other points that we are
41 concerned with that is that as Mr. Stout indicated in his
42 testimony, his original recommendation to the working group
43 was that there is a need for the reduction in the harvest
44 level; that was his original recommendation. And what he's
45 saying is that they will use in-season -- regardless of how
46 many permits are being authorized, that they will use in-
47 season management to remain below the sustained yield
48 level. What we have not heard, however, is what is the
49 calculation for that sustained yield level? In other

50 words, when will the State implement the emergency order,

00044

1 and that -- there's nothing before this Board as to what
2 that -- how many dead moose from the general hunt will be
3 used to trigger the issuance of an executive order.

4
5 So in terms of -- just to conclude, what
6 we're asking for, and this is a very simple request, all
7 we're asking for is that a five percent harvest level be
8 used in the controlled use area. If you favor a five
9 percent harvest level, basically you would support the
10 proposal. If you favor a 7.5 percent harvest level you
11 would reject it. It's that simple.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Any
14 further public comments? Chairman, Koyukuk River Basin.
15 Please state your name for the record, please?

16
17 MS. LOLNITZ: My name is Loretta Lolnitz,
18 I'm from Koyukuk. I'd like to thank the Western Interior
19 Regional Council for taking up the issue for us. It's been
20 a long process. I wanted to Mike Walleri to speak on the
21 technical aspect of the whole issue. My testimony right
22 now is to speak at the local hunter level for taking moose
23 on the Lower Koyukuk River or in the controlled use area.

24
25 I'm born in raised in Koyukuk. Lived and
26 traveled the Koyukuk River pretty much for the amount of
27 years that I've been on this earth. Living in the city I
28 use meat today, moose meat, by preference.

29
30 In the early '90s, we were starting to get
31 a large number of local hunters on the Lower Koyukuk River
32 and at the tribal level, we felt that we were not getting
33 information back to us through the Advisory Councils, the
34 State Advisory Councils and the Regional Councils at the
35 tribal level, so the villages, the tribes formed their own
36 group at the tribal level to try to get the attention of
37 the State and the Federal agencies with our concern over
38 the massive take of moose and all the issues that goes with
39 it, like wanton waste, trash on the river, things like
40 that, gas spilled, environmental stuff.

41
42 Throughout those early '90s we started
43 hearing a lot of the agencies not participating fully and
44 not having funds to help us get our concerns thoroughly
45 across to the State and Federal agencies. Well, guess
46 what, low and behold here comes the State working group
47 with a plan to control moose take on the Koyukuk River with
48 thousands of dollars. And before that group was formed,
49 people who have sat on the Middle Yukon Advisory Board, the

50 Koyukuk River Advisory Board, late Kelly Sam (ph), for

00045

1 instance, for 20 years kept asking the State agencies for
2 funding to show what's really going on for patrols to
3 monitor the illegal guide hunting. All this came down to
4 the amount of moose meat in the Lower Koyukuk River and we
5 never could get that funds. But the State created this
6 State working group based on -- or their forum, were to use
7 guide hunters from Kenai, that area of the Anchorage Bowl,
8 and our moose were still going, you know, still going, they
9 still are today.

10
11 I don't see a five year plan between this
12 group. I'm not actually tired of fighting, I'm just --
13 we're just running out of moose, that's the whole point.
14 And I truly support the technical comments that Mike put
15 before you. If you didn't get my picture then I hope you
16 get more educated on this.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Loretta. The
21 next public testimony will be coming from Virgil
22 Umpenhouer.

23
24 MR. UMPENHOUER: My name is Virgil
25 Umpenhouer. I live in North Pole. I'm the guide that
26 operates in the majority of the controlled use area. I
27 oppose these proposals. What this would do, one thing this
28 would do that hasn't been brought up by anyone, but this
29 would make it so that the residents of Ruby, Nulato and
30 Kaltag would not qualify to hunt in Unit 24 on Federal
31 lands. Another thing it would do is it would devastate the
32 economy, because the guides that actually physically work
33 in this area live in Hughes, Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato and
34 Kaltag. And I want to address what happens to the meat
35 from a guided hunter, there's not that many guided hunters,
36 there were only nine of them inside the controlled use area
37 last year from our operation, but what we do is with a
38 guided hunter, they're all non-residents, we only -- if
39 they want meat, we allow them to have one hind leg and the
40 meat from along the back bone, the rest of the meat goes to
41 villages, and we take extremely good care of the meat. And
42 the priority of people that get the meat are the elders and
43 the single mothers and the disabled people. That if you go
44 to any of those villages, all the way from Hughes down to
45 Kaltag, you'll find people that get the meat from the
46 guided hunters.

47
48 Forty-five permits, if this proposal were
49 passed, which I don't see how it could be, but 45 permits

50 would -- as far as the moose population goes, it does not

00046

1 make a dent in the mortality, the total mortality of the
2 moose because as everyone here knows, that's caused by
3 predation. But this public process, I've been involved in
4 public processes with fish and game resources for a number
5 of years and I think that the public process that went into
6 making this Koyukuk River Moose Management plan was a very
7 good process. I was not one of the members of it, however,
8 I attended all the meetings that did not conflict with a
9 Board of Fisheries meeting, but I do not support these
10 proposals.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Anymore
15 public testimony? Do we have anything written?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, we have no
18 written comments on these proposals.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the next thing would be
21 to vote on this?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, open discussion among
24 Council and then obviously vote on the motion. We do have
25 a motion on the floor. Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: It's my opinion, as a Council
28 member, that this proposal has more ill-effects to
29 subsistence users that utilize these moose resources from
30 the villages below Unit 24 that aren't included in the C&T.
31 And there's a flaw in the logic of this proposal and
32 that's saving the old moose to make up for the losses.
33 Those moose only -- you know, they don't live indefinitely.
34 The old moose that are being harvested, the older bulls
35 primarily, those moose are going to die. The moose
36 population is maintained through recruitment of young
37 animals and that's just not happening. So the saving of
38 the old moose, they're going to die one way or another.
39 They're going to die from old age or hunters will take them
40 or whatever. So that's somewhat of a flaw in reducing the
41 harvest levels.

42
43 I do feel that this 258 permits is too high
44 and I do feel that until a large bull and cow ratio start
45 to show through trend, that they're getting up there around
46 over 20 percent, that there is a need for reduction in the
47 numbers of permits. Mr. Walleri says that a vote against
48 this is against for a five percent reduction, you're either
49 for the moose or against the moose, well, I'm for the

50 moose. I don't get paid to come here. I have worked on

00047

1 this process for years and another chronological chink or
2 piece of this puzzle is our past Chairman, Harold
3 Huntington, submitted a proposal to close the Federal lands
4 within a half a mile or a mile of the Koyukuk River, that's
5 what augmented -- that's what started this planning process
6 with the State. This Council started the planing process
7 with the State.

8
9 Can people pound -- but our past Chairman,
10 Harold Huntington, submitted a proposal and this Council
11 passed that proposal. It was rescinded through the Federal
12 Board after deliberations, you know, they reconsidered and
13 they had a reconsideration, but that's what started this
14 planning process and that's what got the State to the table
15 on this whole issue, was the local people through testimony
16 saying that the moose were going down, this Council adhered
17 to their advice, passed the proposal that started the State
18 into this planning process.

19
20 I agree with this planning process, I do
21 not agree with this level of harvest. But I feel, at
22 least, that these Proposals 28 and 31 have more detriment
23 to the subsistence users than they do in benefit to the
24 moose population, because we're trying to -- because this
25 proposal tries to save older moose that are going to die.
26 This proposal doesn't address a recruitment problem so I'm
27 opposed to these proposals, 01-28 and 01-31.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Ray.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: At this point, I concur with
34 Jack. I would have to vote against this proposal. I think
35 it's very important that where we're at in this planning
36 process, that as has been asked, we continue it for another
37 year. I do have concerns about the number of permits that
38 are issued but with that fail safe that they're going to do
39 an emergency closure if it approaches the harvestable
40 limit, I think we have to give it an opportunity to work
41 because if we shut down the process at this point, we're
42 going to have more problems in other areas of the state, so
43 I think we got to try to make that planning group process
44 work. And then next year we can take a very close look to
45 see what the effect of this is, to see if it is working and
46 then think about further reduction.

47
48 But I'll vote against it at this point.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any further

00048

1 discussion?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: You may want to check and see
4 if Micki is still on line.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: I keep forgetting about
7 Micki because I can't see him. Micki Stickman, do you have
8 any comments at this time?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, he mentioned
11 earlier if he's not on line, the village is preparing for a
12 funeral so he may be involved with that but he told me
13 that.....

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: I'm here.

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to voice my
19 opinion to you guys, I would probably more than likely be
20 against the proposals, too, because anything that's
21 detrimental to the subsistence users in Nulato I'm against.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Any
24 further comments or discussion from the Council?

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: Well, the one thing for sure
27 is, you know, Ron, that we did agree to go with the plan
28 for another year because it was working and since I was on
29 the working group and I did vote for the plan, I would have
30 to vote against any proposals that would be against our
31 plan.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. At this
34 time, I, too, will vote against the proposals as they are
35 presented and my reasons being, that I feel that the moose
36 are in abundance down there and I'm going to use the
37 numbers presented to us. It takes the average hunter in
38 the Lower Koyukuk, in Unit 21(D) two to three days to get
39 their winter moose. It takes us, up on the Upper Koyukuk,
40 up to 14 days and beyond and that's why we have subsistence
41 regulations in effect up in our area. We have a door to
42 door survey and those numbers that were presented and will
43 be presented year after year, don't vary very much, that's
44 one of the basis of my decision.

45

46 I feel that with the winter hunt, five day
47 early season hunt within Unit 21(D) should take care of our
48 subsistence users. And at this time I intend to vote
49 against Proposals 28 and 31.

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1 Any further discussion Council? Any
2 further discussion? Comments.

3
4 At this time the Chair will call for the
5 question. All those in favor of the motion -- okay, just
6 to clarify this again, we are -- if you vote -- how do we
7 do this again? Go ahead.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the motion on
10 the floor is to adopt Proposals 28 and 31 as written. A
11 vote in favor of that would put these forward to the Board
12 to put them into effect or go into effect. A vote against
13 them would send the Board the message that those actions
14 would not be desired by this Council.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Is this
17 clear to all our Council members? That's why I don't like
18 this system -- Jack, you had something?

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: No.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. All those in favor of
23 the motion to support Proposals 28 and 31 signify by saying
24 aye.

25
26 (No aye votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: We rejected this proposal,
35 the record should reflect.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: And we also captured that
38 Micki voted in opposition on the transcript, thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that was heard clearly,
41 right?

42
43 REPORTER: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next proposal.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: The next proposal would be
48 Proposal 32 and Pete has the page and all that and you did
49 desire to have a motion to begin.

00050

1 MR. COLLINS: I move to support Proposal
2 32.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Ray and
7 seconded by Jack to support. Again, I don't like this
8 process.....

9
10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM:to get it on the floor.
13 Proposal 32, Pete DeMatteo.

14
15 MR. DeMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Proposal 32, again, is submitted on behalf of the Koyukuk
17 River Basin Moose Co-Management Team by Mr. Walleri. The
18 proponent requests that the Board close Federal public
19 lands in Unit 24 outside of the Koyukuk controlled use area
20 to the taking of moose except for Federally-qualified
21 subsistence users.

22
23 Like the two proposals we dealt with prior
24 to this one, the proposed Board action would close Federal
25 public lands in Unit 24, outside the Koyukuk controlled use
26 area. In other words, the remaining Federal public lands
27 north of the Koyukuk controlled use area. The areas that
28 would be affected are on Page 96, the proposed Federal
29 regulations, essentially those areas outside of the Koyukuk
30 controlled use area, which are National Park, Refuge and
31 BLM lands. What it essentially would do is public lands
32 would be closed to the taking of moose except by qualified
33 rural Alaska residents.

34
35 And I don't think you want to hear me read
36 the whole page, but.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page are you on Pete?

39
40 MR. DeMATTEO: That's Page 96, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else?

43
44 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, I do. Briefly, the
45 harvest analysis for that area presented by the Department
46 of Fish and Game through community surveys results indicate
47 that analysis of the harvest locations for the 1998/1999
48 and 1999/2000 shows that most of the hunting by the local
49 moose hunters occurs in near community areas located

50 outside of those proposed for closure by this proposal.

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1 The effects of the proposal, proposed Board action, would
2 close Federal public lands in 24 outside of the Koyukuk
3 controlled use area to all users except for Federally-
4 qualified subsistence users. The adoption of the proposed
5 Board action would oppose current harvest guidelines
6 established through the management plan.

7
8 The current results from harvest and
9 population surveys reflect that there is no justification
10 for additional restrictions at this time. The Federal
11 Subsistence Board should continue its support for the
12 ongoing planning process for moose in the Koyukuk River and
13 the continued participation by this Council and the Federal
14 agencies. The preliminary conclusion is to oppose the
15 proposal.

16
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Department.

19
20 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
21 Department does not support this proposal. Adoption of the
22 proposal would unnecessarily prohibit moose hunting on
23 Federal public lands in Unit 24 by non-Federally qualified
24 subsistence users. I might add that our written comments
25 are on Page 100.

26
27 Closing large tracts of Federal public
28 lands as is requested in this proposal, and as was
29 requested in Proposals 28 and 31 will simply displace non-
30 local hunters and intensify moose hunting efforts in other
31 areas. No evidence has been presented to demonstrate that
32 the current regulations in Unit 24 are having a negative
33 impact on the moose population or restricting moose hunting
34 opportunities for local rural residents. Adoption of this
35 proposal would undermine the Koyukuk River Moose Management
36 plan and might discourage similar cooperative planning
37 efforts in the future.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Terry. Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we did
44 have one written public comment and Staff does have copies
45 of the full letter if you desire to see it and on other
46 comments that may be submitted. This one is from Henry D.
47 Tiffany, IV, he's a professional guide of Ester. He writes
48 in opposition of Proposal 32 because it would restrict
49 hunting on public land to one user group. He has concern

50 about if this proposal was passed about displacement of

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1 hunting pressure to other areas. He has seen little
2 hunting up the Alatna River by the villages represented by
3 the co-management team. And he's also concerned about the
4 negative economic effect of this proposal on the local
5 economy. And again, we do have copies of public comments
6 if you desire to see them.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, but who was this
9 from, I was kind of busy?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I pronounce
12 it right it's Henry D. Tiffany, IV, he's a professional
13 guide out of Ester, Alaska. There's a summary of his
14 comments on Page 100. But I added more to it because that
15 didn't capture all his concerns.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next step.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: The next step would be
20 Regional Council deliberation and discussion about the
21 proposal.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I still have some
24 questions on this. I think I'm being inundated with
25 everything.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I forgot to
28 advise you because there is the time for open public
29 comments and by accident I overstepped that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I thought we
32 were going into. Public testimony. Any requests? Virgil
33 Umpenhouer.

34
35 MR. UMPENHOUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
36 if you'd turn to Page 96 of your book and look at the very
37 bottom. It says remainder of Unit 24, one antlered bull
38 and you can look at the new language. It says public lands
39 are closed to taking of moose except by qualified rural
40 residents of Unit 24, Anaktuvuk Pass, Koyukuk and Galena,
41 that means that anyone else would not be able to hunt
42 there, which would also be -- would mean that the people in
43 Ruby, Nulato and Kaltag could not hunt there as well who,
44 some of those people I know have traditionally hunted in
45 Unit 24.

46
47 So there's no reason for this proposal to
48 be there. The number of people that hunt in this area,
49 like the Staff said are mostly local people. There's not

50 many people from outside the local area that actually hunt

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1 in the area below Hughes because that's where I
2 traditionally -- our guiding operation traditionally hunts.
3 And as I said before, the majority of the meat from those
4 moose goes to people that otherwise would have to get
5 someone to go get them a moose by proxy.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Any
10 further public comment? Mike -- Mike Walleri for the
11 record.

12
13 MR. WALLERI: Thank you. The intent of the
14 proposal is to do a couple of things. One, is to expand --
15 at the current time, non-subsistence hunting is prohibited
16 within portions of the Kanuti Refuge. What this would do
17 would be to expand primarily on the strip on the eastern
18 border of the Kanuti and on the southern border of the
19 Kanuti Refuge which is currently open to non-subsistence
20 hunting and would close basically the entire Kanuti.
21 That's the one thing it does.

22 The other thing it does is primarily close
23 hunting within Unit 24 and primarily, I think that has a
24 major -- on other Federal lands, the other major areas the
25 Alatna River as I understand. And contrary to the
26 representations in the written comments, we understand a
27 number of people from Alatna actually hunt -- or
28 Alatna/Allakaket in the area hunt in the Alatna area --
29 Alatna River area.

30
31 In terms of the comments that were made by
32 Mr. Umpenhouer, he was basically quoting in terms of access
33 -- the C&T use determination that currently exists, in
34 other words, people from Nulato do not have a -- do not
35 currently have a C&T use determination so it really does
36 not affect anybody from Nulato -- it doesn't change the
37 existing situation in terms of restricting people, who,
38 subsistence users who could currently hunt in the area as
39 subsistence users. It does -- so that's basically the
40 intent of the proposal. Again, the primary focus here is
41 on the eastern and southern portions of the Kanuti which
42 are currently open and we understood that there's an
43 increase in hunting activity in those areas and in recent
44 years, we're attempting to address that.

45
46 As the Chairman pointed out, the data here is
47 pretty straight forward that the level of effort currently
48 required by people in the Allakaket, Alatna and Evansville
49 areas is about three to four times the level of effort

50 needed to meet subsistence harvest in the lower part of 21

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1 and hopefully this is designed to provide some relief for
2 them.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public
5 testimony. Lisa Saperstein, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

6
7 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
8 Council members. I probably should have spoken earlier
9 when the agencies were doing their thing but I'm not
10 familiar with the process. As Mike mentioned, currently
11 much of the Kanuti Refuge is closed to non-subsistence
12 hunters and the closed area is also open to subsistence
13 hunters from Galena, Anaktuvuk Pass and I believe there's
14 one other area, so it is open to people who do not reside
15 right within that area. We do not have a history of trend
16 surveys in this area. Trend surveys were conducted in the
17 Kanuti Canyon area and the Henshaw PV Creek area between
18 1983 and 1992 and were discontinued. The surveys were not
19 done in a consistent fashion until about 1987 to 1992.
20 This year we reinitiated surveys in that area and what we
21 found is that there really was nothing alarming as far as
22 any kind of decline between the earlier data and this
23 year's data. What we found was that in Kanuti Canyon,
24 there was actually 1.01 moose per square mile within the
25 trend area and that .92 moose per square mile were adults,
26 the rest were calves. The bull per cow ratio there was
27 38.3, in Henshaw Creek it was 129 bulls per 100 cows.

28
29 Now, one thing about the trend surveys is
30 that you really need several years, three to four before
31 you can make any strong conclusions and there was a big gap
32 between the 1992 surveys and the current surveys. So I
33 don't want to use one year of trend data recently as being
34 hard and fast but there's nothing here to really indicate a
35 problem. And these trend surveys were specifically picked
36 in areas that local people use to hunt. The areas that
37 would be closed are further up the rivers, particularly up
38 the Kanuti River, they are accessible by the Dalton Highway
39 Corridor, relatively few people do go down them and we do
40 have information, I believe, Greg or Barry will present
41 later, about what we know of the hunting pressure. We have
42 not seen any decline of declines -- I mean increase as far
43 as we're aware of, but we are also watching the area
44 carefully to see if people displaced from other areas of
45 the Koyukuk River do go there.

46
47 So right now the area is closed to non-
48 local hunters in the areas of traditional use by Allakaket
49 and Alatna.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Barry Whitehill.

2
3 MR. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chair, my name is Barry
4 Whitehill, I'm the Deputy at Kanuti National Wildlife
5 Refuge. I've been there eight years and have conducted law
6 enforcement patrols in the area. There's basically like,
7 as Lisa has indicated, there's three drainages -- major
8 drainages that come off the Dalton Corridor on the east and
9 along the south side, one the Kanuti Fish Creek drainage
10 and the Southfork of the Koyukuk, of those three, what I've
11 seen you know, I don't have hard numbers but just a
12 professional sense, the Southfork of the Koyukuk has had
13 various pulses, I guess, of mainly air boat activity. And
14 I don't think what I see, anyway, I haven't seen it affect
15 the population per se but it becomes troublesome with land
16 ownership issues and people butting heads that way with
17 subsistence users and their lack of knowledge of where
18 lands are. And that's the troublesome area, it's not
19 necessarily from a biological standpoint.

20
21 Down in the Kanuti system, it's a remote
22 area. This year I was aware of one party of four hunters
23 that came into that area, they did harvest four moose but
24 it was well upstream from the closed use area. And just
25 talking with them and having checked them in the field, you
26 know, it seemed like there were several moose for them to
27 choose from in that area. And that's what I see, just a
28 sporadic use in that area. Fish Creek, you know, it's -- I
29 know there is usage from the Dalton Corridor but I don't
30 think it's really increased in that area either. So
31 biologically, I haven't seen the signs of a big impact from
32 the hunters as yet, but there is a troublesome area along
33 the Southfork especially with the air boat activity that's
34 taking place up there, from my standpoint.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: This trouble point, where is
37 it and where are they debarking from?

38
39 MR. WHITEHILL: It depends on the water
40 level. On higher water years, they'll come down the Jim
41 River, but they bring the air boats down from Southfork.
42 It's been historically a group, from my standpoint, from
43 Palmer, Wasilla area and basically they have been the core
44 of activity for the last -- they've indicated to me they've
45 been in there the last 10 or 11 years. And as their
46 stories radiate out and they invite different people over
47 the years to hunt and those people branch off with their
48 own hunting groups, that's kind of where that group of
49 activity has grown. But I know, you know, different

50 hunters have tried those areas, kind of pioneered out and

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1 checked from the Dalton Corridor and our concern as
2 displacement from down river, I know there has been groups
3 that have kind of pioneered, looking in those areas. So
4 we're just trying to keep our -- I'm basically there as
5 trying to inform these people and some of them are very
6 well versed on where the high water mark and their rights
7 within navigability issues as well as trying to inform them
8 when they are on private allotments and corporation lands
9 and the issues there, because my hands are tied. From a
10 law enforcement aspect, I don't have the jurisdiction to do
11 citations but I really feel strongly about trying to be out
12 there and pass on that information to them. And I provide
13 maps and we have signed that area, when they hit the
14 controlled use area and working with the people of
15 Allakaket and Evansville and trying to do everything
16 possible to get that information out.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since you are working on the
19 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge and the Kanuti controlled use area,
20 where do you stand on this proposal, just for my
21 information?

22
23 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, personally I wouldn't
24 support the proposal. I think the controlled use area
25 that's in effect right now and what I see people -- you
26 know, I have not seen violations of that in my career
27 there. And so I think it's an adequate area that -- and
28 what subsistence activity I see, I feel it provides an
29 adequate area for the harvest of animals for the village
30 areas.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Since this area is a
33 recognized controlled use area and with the recent actions
34 just outside of Nenana banning air boats, is there any way
35 that we can ban air boats up in this controlled use area?

36
37 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, the issue becomes
38 navigability, you know, below the high water mark, you
39 know, that's State jurisdiction and, you know, as it stands
40 right now things are evolving in the court system and that
41 may change down the road but from my standpoint that would
42 have to be somewhat of a State change there.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't there any action
45 taken to define air boats as aircraft or was that cut off?

46
47 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, from Refuge
48 definition on Refuge lands and where I do have
49 jurisdiction, if these air boats do bump off waterways, the

50 main water course, and that includes onto slough areas that

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1 are on Refuge lands, they're considered to be off-road
2 vehicles and so I do have the authority to cite them,
3 they're not supposed to be in those areas.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, will you turn that
6 mike on and off when you're done. Wasn't there specific
7 action done by the Nenana area that did classify air boats
8 as aircraft or did I miss a point on that newspaper
9 article, and that was just about three or four days ago?

10
11 MR. WHITEHILL: I'm sorry, I haven't been
12 apprised of that situation.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Barry. Any
15 further questions or comments?

16
17 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

20
21 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Randy Rogers may
22 be able to provide a response to your question about the
23 air boats if you'd like him to.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, briefly. Because it
26 seems like these air boaters associations are willing to
27 spend quite a bit of money to take everything to court and
28 that's why I thought there was a classification or some
29 kind of action that they declared them aircraft.

30
31 MR. ROGERS: I can't give you all the
32 details and I haven't seen the actual court decision, but
33 the gist of it was that the Court upheld the Board of
34 Game's authority to limit air boat use for hunting
35 activities. So, in theory, in terms of the Board's
36 authority for establishing controlled use areas, it's
37 intact, maybe stronger than ever and they could -- you
38 know, proposals could be given to the Board of Game to
39 establish controlled use areas for air boats and other
40 purposes. So that's the legal side of it.

41
42 The political side of it remains very
43 touchy because there has been legislation proposed that
44 would limit the Board's authority to do that. So I think
45 the Board will be very cautious. But that decision does
46 support their authority.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for the
49 clarification. What's next there, Vince?

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if there's no
2 other.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we do.
5

6 MS. LOLNITZ: Thank you. My name is Loretta
7 Lolnitz, I'm from Koyukuk. Thank you for recognizing me
8 again, Ron. Irregardless of what the unit we're speaking
9 on, if you're going to bring up a discussion on air boats
10 I'd like to bring up a discussion on the testimony on what
11 was said earlier on meat given away to elders, handicapped
12 and single women. Well, for myself, in Koyukuk, I have a
13 sister who is single, a have a mother who lives alone, I
14 have a couple of handicapped uncles who never got meat from
15 any legal guide hunter. I do know of one person who got
16 meat from a -- quite possibly could have been an illegal
17 transporter. I also know a lot of the meat goes to dumps
18 in our area specifically. Now, I don't know about Unit 24
19 and the Yukon bridge area, I do know that meat gets dumped
20 around there. But for us, the Galena dump takes a lot of
21 meat.

22
23 So you know, irregardless, our moose
24 population is going down, you know, one of these days I
25 might have to eat beef everyday, you know, and catch that
26 mad cow disease. You know, that's just the bottom line,
27 moose meat is in decline.

28 Thanks.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Next item would
31 be what, Council deliberations?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's it.
34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council member's concerns.
36 Questions. Jack.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: My main concern is being from
39 the Upper Koyukuk drainage, I would be representing people
40 from Bettles and when hunters are displaced from closures
41 on Federal lands they're pressed onto State lands. And the
42 people around Bettles, they have all State land to the
43 north of them and their moose population is being harvested
44 fairly heavily right now and we, at the Koyukuk River
45 Advisory level for the State, we plan on doing some things
46 about that this next round. But just closing all the
47 Federal lands down in Unit 24 and displacing those hunters
48 onto those State lands would pressure those populations
49 even further before and unwarranted.

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1 Another aspect, that's why I request the
2 Title VIII at every one of our meetings. As a Council
3 member I've read this Title VIII backwards and forwards and
4 I'm not a lawyer but I do read language fairly well and it
5 says that there's a provision in Title VIII, Section 815,
6 number 3, it says nothing in this title shall be construed
7 as authorizing a restriction on the taking of fish and
8 wildlife for non-subsistence uses on the public lands other
9 than Parks or Monuments unless necessary for conservation
10 of healthy populations of fish and wildlife. And I have to
11 remain within the parameters of this law. This is the law
12 that gives rural preference, this is also the law that has
13 certain parameters and this is what the Board has to look
14 at. And we've passed proposals, and this Council, before,
15 that I didn't feel would meet this test and they failed at
16 the Board level because they can't pass the Federal
17 Subsistence Board without meeting this test. So I can't,
18 without data here to show that -- you know, Kanuti saying
19 they got one moose a square mile, without data to show that
20 there's decline in the moose then we can't do anything
21 about this.

22
23 So these are some of my reservations about
24 this proposal. Displacing hunters from Federal lands onto
25 State lands to the north of Bettles would be detrimental to
26 those people's usage and also the legality of this
27 proposal. To these are my reservations about this
28 proposal.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Further
31 comments or questions from the Council. If not, we do have
32 a motion on the floor to adopt Proposal 32. It was moved
33 by Ray and seconded by Jack, any further questions,
34 comments, deliberation? If not, the Chair will call for a
35 question. Again, if you vote to support this you vote aye,
36 again, I don't like this format. So the Chair will call
37 the question, all those in favor of the motion signify by
38 saying aye.

39
40 (No aye votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 32 is not
49 supported. Right, is that good enough for your

50 clarification? Is that clear?

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next proposal.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we do have
6 other proposals but we are into the lunch hour, it's up to
7 you. We have three more proposals, 24, 29 and 30.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to give a lot of
10 time to Proposal 29, Innoko Refuge controlled use area so
11 I'd like that deferred until after lunch. Proposal 30 is
12 along the same lines so I'd like to tie those together and
13 34, I think it won't take much -- the lunch lines are too
14 long at this time anyway, so let's go into 34, it shouldn't
15 take too long.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you jointly
18 took up 34 with Eastern Interior yesterday.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So that one is taken care of
21 then. We are done with proposals except for Huslia/Dakli
22 River and Innoko Refuge area proposed controlled use area.
23 I think that we need some time on this so let's take these
24 two subjects after lunch. Let's go ahead and break for
25 lunch right now. I think we got everything else taken care
26 of so let's come back at 1:30; is that fine with everyone?

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make
29 a comment before you go.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki, again, I'm
32 sorry because I'm used to looking at you in the face,
33 sorry. Go ahead, Micki.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: My comment will pertain to
36 the moose management plan, the Koyukuk River Moose
37 Management plan.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: What was that question
40 again?

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: My comments will be -- when
43 the Koyukuk River Moose Management plan comes up -- well,
44 I'm going to be taking off pretty soon and I probably won't
45 be coming back on line.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Micki, we'll
48 take your comments and your deliberation right now on
49 whether we go forward with the plan. Thank you.

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1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. If the Council moves
2 to adopt the plan, I'd like to go on record as being in
3 favor of the plan.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Micki.
6 Anything else -- if you're taking off, is there anything
7 else of concern that you have?

8
9 MR. STICKMAN: No, nothing right now. I
10 think Benedict will voice any concerns that I have
11 adequately and at this time I'd like to thank the Council
12 for letting me participate through teleconference.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: We wanted to make sure you
15 were on line to establish a quorum, so again I appreciate
16 your participation in this meeting. Thank you and take
17 care of your business then, Micki.

18
19 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I'll see you guys,
20 hopefully I'll see some of you next week.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, at this time we'll
23 call a lunch break and come back at 1:30 and spend some
24 time on these last two proposals.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to reconvene the
31 Western Interior Council meeting. The next item on the
32 agenda is Proposal 29. At this time the Chair will
33 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 29.

34
35 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Angela, is there a
38 second?

39
40 MR. DEACON: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry. Staff
43 reports.

44
45 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 29 was
46 submitted by Henry Deacon of Grayling and this Council. He
47 requested that the Board close the Innoko National Wildlife
48 Refuge to the use of aircraft for hunting moose. The
49 request, the original request would essentially have

50 created an Innoko controlled use are to include all Federal

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1 lands in Unit 21(A) and 21(E) within the Refuge.

2

3 The original proposal was amended on
4 January 18th by Mr. Deacon. The amended proposal would
5 expand the Paradise controlled use area to include BLM,
6 State and private lands and that portion of the Refuge
7 within 21(E) starting at the confluence of the outflow of
8 Reindeer Lake and Paimiut Slough along the straight line
9 heading northeast to the mouth of the Iditarod River, and
10 there's a map that better illustrates it on the following
11 page, which is Page 64 in the analysis. The vertical hatch
12 marks is the existing Paradise controlled use area and the
13 proponent would like to see that controlled use area
14 expanded to the east and that's the diagonal hatch marked
15 area that goes from the outflow of Reindeer Lake where it
16 meets Paimiut Slough up to the mouth of the Iditarod.
17 Grayling would also like to see that extended from the
18 mouth of the Iditarod along a straight line northeast to
19 Sixmile Lake and then heading off in a northwest direction
20 straight line to the lower part of Eagle Island on the
21 Yukon River.

22

23 Does that explain that, Mr. Chair?

24

25 MR. COLLINS: So it doesn't include the
26 rest of 21(A) then on up there, it's just expansion to the
27 east that we're talking about now, right?

28

29 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct, just the
30 expansion to the east. The original proposal was the
31 entire Innoko Refuge, the revised proposal is that area
32 east of existing Paradise controlled use area and then the
33 area going from the mouth of the Iditarod to Sixmile Lake
34 and then northwest to the lower portion of Eagle Island on
35 the Yukon River.

36

37 What precipitated this proposal was that
38 residents of the GASH communities, Grayling, Anvik,
39 Shageluk, Holy Cross have expressed concerns of increased
40 hunting pressure from fly-in moose hunters within their
41 area. This was also echoed through this Council last year.
42 Local concerns of fly-in moose hunters favor additional
43 access restrictions within this area for non-Federally
44 qualified users within the Refuge, and through the revision
45 of the proposal now from the areas I've described.

46

47 The proposed regulation change you see on
48 Page 66, I won't read the entire thing because it's quite
49 confusing and lengthy but essentially what we'd be adding

50 to that language is along the straight line from the mouth

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1 of the Iditarod River southwest to the confluence of the
2 outflow of Reindeer Lake and Paimiut Slough, and then also
3 Mr. Deacon would like to see it also go a straight line
4 from the mouth of the Iditarod River to Sixmile Lake and
5 then a straight line from Sixmile Lake to the lower end of
6 Eagle Island.

7
8 The regulatory history of the Paradise
9 controlled use area was established in 1978 by the Alaska
10 Board of Game in response to concerns that hunters success
11 rates favored non-local users and that total harvest levels
12 threatened the resource. The density estimates for moose
13 populations within the proposal area do not reflect the
14 need for additional regulatory restrictions. Looking at
15 the survey information that was collected by the Department
16 of Fish and Game, individual sample units within this area,
17 not all of them, but some of them exceed 40 moose per
18 square mile. I looked at the harvest information that was
19 collected by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
20 Division of Subsistence and it reflects that within the
21 GASH communities during the years of 1983 through 1999, for
22 those four communities, the average hunter success rate is
23 79 percent, which is relatively high.

24
25 Looking at this information, and also
26 listening to concerns expressed by Angela and by Henry and
27 other people of that area who depend on this area for
28 moose, when I write this analysis I have to adhere to
29 certain guidelines and look at the biological information
30 and the harvest information as well. Unfortunately, that
31 information does not warrant additional restrictions at
32 this time. But Staff is most open to listening to
33 additional testimony by the Council that would support
34 their concerns that are expressed in this analysis and also
35 by the Council in prior years. And with that, the
36 preliminary conclusion is to oppose the proposal, thank
37 you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. Agency.

40
41 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
42 Department of Fish and Game comments are on Page 71 of your
43 meeting materials. Those comments were written before the
44 proposal was amended or corrected, whatever the case might
45 be. So our written comments don't accurately address the
46 revised proposal, but be that as it may, we support the
47 Staff recommendation to oppose the proposal for the reasons
48 given in the justification provided by the Staff.

49

Thank you.

00064

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Terry. What's
2 next, public testimony?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe
5 Henry knows of some other people that are attending the TCC
6 Board of Directors meeting that may want to testify on
7 this. So maybe Henry could shed some light on that.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

10
11 MR. DEACON: Orville is going to go get
12 them now so it will take about one or two minutes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you or Angela have
19 anything to add on this?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in the interim
22 I can cover the written public comment that was submitted.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Please do.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There is a letter I
27 have here which is from Steve White of Willow Air Service.
28 If you'd like to see a copy of that we can provide it.
29 Basically they oppose the proposal, there's no data showing
30 declining moose population in the Innoko Wildlife Refuge
31 and recent studies show moose populations remain steady.
32 There is also no decline in hunter success rate. The
33 nearest community is Shageluk, which is 84 river miles or
34 35 miles in a straight line down stream from the Innoko
35 Refuge. This is too far away to affect the success rate of
36 the hunters from Shageluk. In the last four years, Willow
37 Air has reduced its number of hunters to keep from
38 overhunting and to keep higher hunter success rates. We
39 have strived to get all of the meat out of the field in a
40 timely manner and not have any meat wasted. We give half
41 of our moose meat away and we haul it out to locals in
42 McGrath. In 1999 they were given a plaque for their
43 activities, a positive plaque of their activities.

44
45 Anyways, there's a full copy of the letter
46 here. The Willow Air Service opposes the proposal.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

49

MR. COLLINS: Question on that Vince. Were

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1 they commenting on the modified proposal or original, which
2 closed all of 21, do you know?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, to my knowledge, I'm
5 looking at Pete, it would be the original proposal. The
6 date on the letter was January 8th, we received it in our
7 office on January 10th.

8

9 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Mr. Deacon's
10 original proposal was modified on January the 18th, so it
11 would have been the original proposal.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: When was that letter dated?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: That was from the president
16 of Willow Air Service, Mr. Steve White, so they were
17 commenting on the original proposal for a more extensive
18 controlled use area.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: I think the manager of Innoko
21 is here and the question is, is Willow Air operating in the
22 area of the modified proposal and I'm not sure how far down
23 they land, if somebody could answer that? Yeah, I don't
24 think they're in the area of the amended proposal.

25

26 MR. SHAFF: Mr. Chairman, my name is Bill
27 Shaff. I'm the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge and to the
28 best of my belief, Willow Air, very few of the air taxi
29 services operate that far south.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Are you
32 going to be here throughout today?

33

34 MR. SHAFF: Yes.

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's all the
38 public comment that was provided, you know, in writing. I
39 don't know the status of the speakers from.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I've got their requests
42 here and I'm ready to recognize them.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: That's all we had for written
45 comments.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thank you. At
48 this time we have two people signed up for public testimony
49 and they are Phillip Demientieff of Holy Cross and Gabe

50 Nicholi of Graying, this is on Proposal 29. At this time I

00066

1 would like to call both of them up to the front table with
2 the mike and begin with Mr. Phillip Demientieff. Thank you
3 for showing up and thank you for your concern.

4
5 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Well, I'm here to -- you know, I live in Holy Cross and I
7 also work with the four villages down there that's in Unit
8 21(E) and, you know, every year we have moose hunt and we
9 see float planes flying, we think that, you know, those
10 hunters going out -- you know, guides, guiding, but I
11 couldn't prove that for sure. But guiding and other --
12 what I'm trying to say is that I'd like to see the moose
13 population be there for the future. I'd like to see the
14 moose population protected because I hear stories of people
15 from my village and surrounding villages, you know, they go
16 out canoeing in lakes and they see these bull moose with
17 only the horns taken and the rest of the whole moose just
18 laying there. I hear that from the village people. And
19 I'd just like to see the moose population protected and one
20 of these things would be that -- I'm kind of getting
21 nervous, excuse me, I'm just saying that I would not like
22 to see any sport hunting planes flying in our the area.

23
24 Another issue we have is wolves, you know,
25 wolves are taking a toll on the moose population, too.
26 That's another thing I'd like to mention.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Phillip thank you. Thank
31 you for admitting your nervousness, but just feel free to
32 be yourself, we've got a lot of respectful for you. We are
33 all the same way up here. Is that the extent of your
34 testimony?

35
36 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you're in full support of
39 Proposal 29 then?

40
41 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, on what Henry's
42 proposing.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Gabe.

45
46 MR. NICHOLI: Yeah, my name is Gabe
47 Nicholi from Grayling. I hope I don't get nervous before I
48 start speaking.

49

(Laughter)

00067

1 MR. NICHOLI: But I'm here to testify on
2 behalf of Henry's proposal also. I do most of my hunting
3 in the fall up Innoko River and it seems like it's getting
4 harder and harder to get a moose and we're not trophy
5 hunters. We get what we can get. I was out for four days
6 last fall and all we seen was two and we were lucky enough
7 to get one. And we see a lot of planes flying, you know,
8 over the area all the time and we don't know where they're
9 going or anything but they're always flying around the area
10 and there's getting less and less moose. So I just wanted
11 to -- I'm supporting Henry's proposal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you both. I had a
14 question -- both of you are in support of Proposal 29? Are
15 you aware that it had been amended just to the east side
16 instead of engulfing the whole Innoko Wildlife Refuge; are
17 you aware that it has been amended?

18
19 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Just prior to this I was
20 aware it has, yeah.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Were you aware, too, Gabe?

23
24 MR. NICHOLI: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Feel free
27 to sit around we may ask you more questions so don't run
28 too far and we may call you back or just raise your hand if
29 you want recognition, okay.

30
31 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, we'll just be right
32 next door.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, either that or just
35 stick around if you can. All right. At this time we have
36 further request for public testimony and I'll call on Carl
37 Jerue.

38
39 MR. JERUE: Carl Jerue, the Chief of Anvik.
40 And I've lived there for going on 39 years and we have the
41 Paradise controlled unit there but prior to that we have
42 witnessed numerous violations with aircraft. And the
43 enforcement -- the resources for enforcement is not
44 available then and it is not available today so anyone with
45 an airplane can go out and do whatever they please. There
46 are areas so remote that we have numerous lakes there that
47 you can't access by water or land, just by air so we are
48 supporting this proposal. And it has worked with our area
49 in the Paradise area. I have been listening to complaints

50 from the residents of Holy Cross, Grayling, Shageluk about

00068

1 their traditional hunting grounds they have used for years
2 and years and they're having to compete with these folks
3 that have an abundance of money and they charter airplanes,
4 there's just no competition and it's getting worse and
5 worse. I guess it all -- I can't -- I can't describe how
6 angry I am about what's going on there and I'm here to
7 support this proposal before our resources are gone, and
8 then what would we do, we'd be in the same situation as
9 McGrath, Unit 19.

10
11 So if there's any questions.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will you hit that mike.
14 Yeah, Carl, again, the same question, are you aware of the
15 amendment to the proposal, the east side of this Paradise
16 controlled use area?

17
18 MR. JERUE: (Nods affirmatively)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, okay. Just for the
21 public's information, these four boys that are testifying
22 are quite busy at this time and I'd like to thank them for
23 appearing and pulling out of their classes next door and
24 thank them for dropping their class so they can testify. I
25 just want to make it clear to them and to all of us that
26 they are aware of the amendment to cut down from the
27 original area, the whole Innoko are to the east side of
28 Paradise. Did you have anything more, Carl?

29
30 MR. JERUE: Yeah. See we have some cases
31 that the residents are -- that the local people are cited
32 for some minor violations, you know, like they don't leave
33 a part on the rear quarter there, the hindquarter and they
34 get cited for that and maybe for not having their license
35 or their ticket, so we feel we are, you know, we're easy
36 prey for the enforcement because we're there, we're not
37 just in and out hunting. We set up camp and that's just
38 our way of hunting. We don't have aircraft, we don't fly
39 in and fly out in a half an hour so we're there. We get
40 visited by enforcement officers quite often.

41
42 I will be supporting any efforts like this
43 today and in the future. I look forward to working with
44 this Council here. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. If you're
47 done, we'll call Eugene Paul from Holy Cross. Again, I'd
48 like to thank you boys for taking time out of your classes.
49 If you really do have to go back to class, I can't hold you

50 back, but you're welcome to stay and I'd like to thank you

00069

1 for your testimony. Eugene.

2

3 MR. PAUL: Hello, I support Henry's
4 proposal because it's very tough for -- like I live in Holy
5 Cross, I'm the traditional chief and I've been on the
6 council for about -- this is my fifth year now. It's tough
7 because there's two big outfitting game people that are
8 just right outside the Innoko, there's Pike Safari and
9 there's this big boat that's just parked right on Reindeer
10 Lake and they fly planes in and out from -- you know, when
11 you're hunting you always see a float plane flying and it's
12 pretty tough for like -- you know, we reported this to Fish
13 and Game and the Fish and Game is just so -- they're so
14 booked up that they wouldn't be even able to check them.
15 But now this -- if the proposal goes through, now, that's
16 going to be tough for us to hunt for our subsistence way of
17 life because our fishing is already going to be very -- cut
18 drastically this summer. Our subsistence, it's going to be
19 tough. And then once this proposal, if you guys propose
20 this aerial hunting thing, you know, that's going to be
21 really tough for us to maintain our subsistence way of life
22 for eating that moose meat. That's what we look forward
23 to, that's part of our way of life of eating this moose
24 meat, especially for the next generation coming up, like
25 me, like my children and if we end up opening this thing up
26 with aerial hunting, there's going to be lots of planes
27 coming in and out because Aniak's just right there and it's
28 really tough.

29

30 So I'd like it to be noted that I support
31 Henry's proposal.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Eugene. Again,
34 I'll clarify for the record that you do understand that
35 we're deliberating on the amended one, the expansion of
36 Paradise, right?

37 MR. PAUL: Yeah. That means that it's
38 going to come down towards the Innoko, though, right,
39 that's what you're -- it's coming further down towards
40 Reindeer Lake?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's exactly right.
43 There's a map there with the amendments.

44

45 MR. PAUL: Yeah, I see it right here. But
46 stills that's -- I mean that's where we hunt, I mean we
47 don't hunt on the Yukon, we don't, we hunt on the Innoko
48 River to get our moose and that's towards -- you know,
49 that's going to be towards our hunting grounds where we've

50 been hunting for years and years. I mean my dad brought me

00070

1 out there to hunt and if you open that up that's going to
2 hurt Holy Cross and Shageluk and it's just going to be
3 tough to be hunting moose. You know, that's opening a big
4 area for people to be flying around.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: The proposal is actually to
9 close it -- to enlarge the closed area, it's not to open
10 any area. It's to expand on the east side of the Innoko
11 River, the closure from Reindeer Lake up to the mouth of
12 the Iditarod. You mentioned that there were some air taxis
13 or fly-ins who were using lakes on that side, are they in
14 the area that will now be closed, can somebody answer that?

15
16 MR. PAUL: Yeah. They're going to be right
17 -- they're landing there even right up towards -- out from
18 Reindeer Lake, alongside the Innoko, there's a couple of
19 lakes before Shageluk, like there might be Layman's and
20 then -- it's pretty close to Albert's Lake and those two
21 lakes right there that are really major lakes that were --
22 there was quite a bit of big float planes landing right
23 there. I mean there's no -- I even called Fish and Game
24 about it and they said they're so, you know, overwhelmed
25 with work because that -- they take care of that Aniak
26 region part and they'll check onto it but you'll still --
27 the next day when you go out hunting you still see these
28 planes flying, it's just -- they never go away, they just
29 keep on coming. There's even some big beavers that, you
30 know, we reported them but nothing has happened.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anymore questions for
35 Eugene? Henry, go ahead.

36
37 MR. DEACON: The proposal here, I think
38 it's a good proposal. I know I got a lot of comments on it
39 from the villages. And the reason for this is for the
40 subsistence users will be increased in three or four years
41 in our area, in our villages, therefore, we need to secure
42 around our villages for those kind of systems, due to
43 increase of hunters, you know. My grandchildren, they need
44 a place to hunt, too. And not only that, but increased
45 moose or whatever that is around there, you got to have a
46 safeguard for them and that's one of the reasons behind
47 this proposal.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you Henry. Did

50 we have any further public comments? Thank you, again,

00071

1 Eugene. I know you're busy right now but thanks for coming
2 over. Any further public testimony? What's the next step,
3 Vince? Okay, Pollack Simon. Yeah, for your information
4 Pollack, we're dealing with Proposal 29, the Innoko area,
5 thank you.

6
7 MR. SIMON: I'm the Chairman for the
8 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and also SRC for Gates of
9 the Arctic. I've been involved in fish and game for all of
10 a better part of my life, and I'm kind of concerned about
11 some areas. At the last teleconference meeting, Koyukuk
12 River Advisory Committee, we were opposed to a winter
13 hunting season around Evansville, Bettles because they have
14 a road there that goes in and some non-local hunters get a
15 lot of moose out there. So we support a closure for that
16 area in the winter hunt.

17
18 I also sit on the Koyukuk River Drainage
19 Fisheries Board and we had a meeting in Holy Cross. At the
20 meeting it was decided by board members that large fires
21 that burn have a harmful fallout for fish spawning areas.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pollack, could you make it
24 brief because what we're deliberating on right now is
25 Proposal 29, the Innoko area.

26
27 MR. SIMON: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: And if you want to testify
30 about the area around Bettles, we have time this afternoon.
31 We will be bringing back people and Jack will be here, too,
32 so we're not dealing with the -- if you can come back,
33 that's when I would rather have you testify, but if you
34 can't come back later, then do it now.

35
36 MR. SIMON: Okay, sure.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, I know
39 you're busy over next door, too.

40 MR. SIMON: Uh-huh.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next step.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think
45 there's some other agency comments by Staff Committee
46 representatives.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: One thing that we skipped
49 over is the numbers from this area, who's the Innoko

50 Wildlife Refuge manager?

00072

1 MR. MATHEWS: He's present here and he'll
2 be up at the table shortly but I think Greg Bos is also the
3 -- he's the representative of the wildlife component of
4 Fish and Wildlife Service, Staff Committee.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Greg.

7
8 MR. BOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is
9 Greg Bos, the Fish and Wildlife Service representative on
10 the Inter-Agency Staff Committee. I just wanted to bring a
11 couple of things to your attention so you can consider them
12 as you deliberate on this proposal.

13
14 First, I think you all understand that the
15 area included within this proposal as it's been revised, if
16 you should recommend approval would only apply to the
17 Federal lands, not the State or private lands, and a fair
18 portion of the area is State or private lands, particularly
19 adjacent to the villages of Holy Cross and Shageluk. To be
20 most effective, you know, you would need to have a similar
21 action taken by the State Board of Game if you wanted to
22 have this controlled use area -- to take care of the
23 concerns that some of the residents have raised for the
24 areas adjacent to those villages.

25
26 The second point that I wanted you to think
27 about is that in most cases, when the Federal Subsistence
28 Board adopts regulations, they apply only to Federal
29 subsistence users and not to non-subsistence users, non-
30 Federal. In this case I think the intent is pretty clear,
31 that the proponent would like to restrict non-local people,
32 non-Federally eligible hunters from flying into this area.
33 And if that's the case, you know, the Board will need to
34 consider some of the aspects that Jack Reakoff raised
35 earlier about Section 815 and that is, only when it is
36 found to be necessary for the conservation of the moose
37 resource, in this case, or to protect subsistence uses, if
38 subsistence uses are being adversely affected by non-
39 Federal users coming into this area, would the Board adopt
40 a restriction on non-Federal users, the information
41 presented so far in the analysis, however, indicates that
42 success rates by local hunters are very high and that the
43 moose population is not -- or the health of the moose
44 population is not being jeopardized at this time.

45
46 It's apparent, though, that there are user
47 conflict issues here, competition and concerns about the
48 future of this moose population. There has been a project
49 approved under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program to

50 establish a working group for the GASH communities to

00073

1 address user conflict issues, both in relation to moose and
2 to fish issues on the Innoko River, and that's an
3 alternative way of addressing some of these concerns.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Greg. How long
8 has the Paradise controlled use area been in effect?

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, since 1978.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I notice that it covers
13 a lot of State grounds, right?

14
15 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct, if you look at the
16 map on Page 64, you'll see a patchwork of land
17 jurisdictions. The BLM being the darkest shaded area; Fish
18 and Wildlife not so dark; and then the areas, I guess, that
19 are represented in white would be State and private.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: I'm not sure who to address
24 this question to, maybe Terry for the State. But I have
25 heard from the residents of the area, and has been
26 expressed here also that the Paradise controlled use area
27 is actually being violated by people using lakes on the
28 other side of the Innoko, very close to that area and then
29 using boats and so on to access, so they're kind of
30 violating the intent of it. Is that the case, have there
31 been complaints on enforcement, like they see the planes
32 flying and so on, but they're operating from that area?
33 But it looks like it would be State or possibly some of the
34 BLM land. The map is a little unclear. Can anybody pick
35 out some of those lakes that they're talking about? I
36 don't know, we don't have the resident from Holy Cross
37 still here. I know Reindeer Lake, you can see that on the
38 map. But has the State received comments on that or
39 complaints on that and maybe, Bill, from Innoko, too, have
40 you heard the same comments of people landing outside the
41 area and then going in and accessing it?

42
43 MR. SHAFF: I have heard some comments
44 about that. In our enforcement efforts, we don't cover the
45 State lands, our jurisdiction stops at the south end of the
46 Refuge boundary which would be about the top 20 percent of
47 the controlled use area. We patrol that area pretty well,
48 the area of the controlled use area that's on the Refuge.
49 I can't say there was no violations, however, we do monitor

50 it pretty closely when we're over there.

00074

1 South of that area is closer to the
2 villages and I can't really speak for those areas.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

5
6 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Ray, I don't
7 have information to respond to your question so I'm not
8 sure if that has been an enforcement issue or not.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where do we stand on
11 this now, Vince?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have a
14 motion on the floor and it's just open discussion. Again,
15 we've been discussing over here, you do need to look at the
16 Federal land make up on this. I think it may be
17 advantageous for Henry or others to explain what areas are
18 important within the area that they've defined there using
19 the Federal land overlap. Because, the proposal, if it was
20 passed by the Board would only cover Bureau of Land
21 Management lands and Fish and Wildlife Service lands.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. But even if we did
24 that, you know, Paradise already covers a good bunch of
25 State land. If we covered that area, those three dark
26 areas around Shageluk, that might be all we need at this
27 time or is that the way you read it?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: That's the way I read it but
30 I'd caution you and we do have BLM representatives here, I
31 don't know the status of those dark colored lands there on
32 the map, if those are going to expand or contract or what's
33 happening with the State settlement on Native claim
34 settlements in those area so we would -- I don't know how
35 firm those are so maybe somebody could tell us how firm
36 those dark lands are that are represented by Bureau of Land
37 Management. The Refuge boundaries, I believe, will not
38 change at all so those are pretty strong unless Bill has
39 additional data on that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Bill.

42
43 MR. SHAFF: Vince, the Refuge boundaries
44 won't change but one thing I would like to note is that a
45 lot of the allotment claims are in that southwest portion
46 of the Refuge which is currently covered or potentially
47 covered by the controlled use area, just so the Council
48 will note that, please.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: So we go into Council

00075

1 deliberations, right?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was
4 just cautioning you because I have talked to Henry about
5 this and I know that when we got this modification, he kind
6 of indicated the area and I'm not familiar with the
7 geography of the area but the area that was in the Refuge
8 portion of the proposed area seemed to be the most
9 important for the villages and I don't know if that's still
10 the case. So maybe Henry would like to talk more about
11 that. If not, then that's fine. I just remember him
12 saying the area up there and the lighter grey area was the
13 more critical spot.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Any
16 Council deliberation. Comments. Henry.

17

18 MR. DEACON: I forgot what I was going to
19 say. Anyways, it's important this proposal, as far as our
20 area of concern -- gosh, I forgot what I was going to say.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MR. DEACON: One of the things I kind of
25 question is like Pete said, there's no reason for it and
26 he's against it and according to him there's a lot of moose
27 in that area. I know, I live in that area. I know there's
28 less moose than a couple of years ago. There was way more.
29 I was up there just a few days and there's no moose tracks,
30 it's wolves are killing the moose off. I think the State
31 and the Federal should -- they have a responsibility to
32 check into these requests when it's -- you know, when
33 people question those things. They're getting paid for
34 that, to manage these things. You know, when we report it
35 as a citizen, it should be honored, and so the population
36 statement is questionable to me within the area, period.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.
39 Discussion. Angela.

40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Angela Demientieff, Holy Cross. On this Paradise
42 controlled use area, my father was one of the people who
43 wrote and made those boundaries. And before he died in
44 1989, he said, you know, one thing we should have made
45 those boundaries further out. We're happy with what we
46 have but we should have really extended them further east.
47 And I was really glad that Henry has brought a proposal for
48 that. I know that there's just a little piece of BLM lands
49 but once we get those covered, then we can always move on

50 to the State to get the rest covered under a controlled use

00076

1 area. And like all the other guys before me, we've seen so
2 many planes flying in and flying out and they've dropped
3 off hunters so they could go by boat. We've seen planes
4 broke down on the river and the reason they were broke down
5 was they were overloaded, those big beavers and they'd
6 break down and they'd have all this meat on board and they
7 couldn't take off, the load was too heavy and they'd have
8 to wait for parts. We've seen people break their airplanes
9 down trying to haul out moose. One was parked on the beach
10 for two years because he had too big a load, he was from
11 the Bethel area.

12
13 Our people are trying to do their best
14 living the way they want to live like they always have.
15 And when we have all these outside pressures like on our
16 game, I know Fish and Game always tells us, you guys got a
17 lot of moose. We know there are moose. But if you fly
18 from Holy Cross to Grayling, once you pass Paradise you
19 don't see no more moose. I used to go to Grayling all the
20 time by plane and Shag and Anvik and it used to be just a
21 big joy to look out the window and whoever was on your left
22 would count that side and if you're on the right side you
23 could the moose, you know, you can't count moose no more
24 because they're not there. They're moving. They're moving
25 down towards Holy Cross because we got a lot of willows and
26 stuff down there.

27
28 And even though we do have the moose, we
29 still would like to preserve those moose for our children
30 and our grandchildren so that they'll be able to hunt. And
31 I really support Henry in trying to close that to planes
32 and outsiders coming in. Because like everybody else from
33 Holy Cross and the other villages, we've ridden up the
34 Innoko and seen all these moose laying around, just no
35 heads on them or just rotting on the beach. You try to
36 talk and report them, and they say, well, you guys are
37 going to have to get the numbers on those airplanes and let
38 us know or you're going to have to take pictures. They
39 want video cameras out there and not everybody in the
40 village has a video camera to go out there and record all
41 these things. And it sounds like sometimes to some of the
42 people, that even though they saw it with their eyes and
43 they know it to be a fact and they know it's true, it seems
44 like when Fish and Game comes in they just don't believe
45 them. They just brush them off like they want more
46 information from them.

47
48 And I'm getting tired of hearing, you know,
49 all these things about other people coming in and I know

50 you guys are going to try and have a meeting between us and

00077

1 them, other people, but still, because they got the bigger
2 money than we do -- we're just poor people living there,
3 the attention is going to be given more to these big game
4 people than they are to the village people who actually
5 live there. I know Koyukuk and them they're showing some
6 success, but still we know that the guides are still going
7 to be coming to moose hunt and that's something we're going
8 to have to live with on these out of staters flying in in
9 these nice, fancy airplanes and unloaded off into lakes and
10 going all over the country, places we can't even get to.
11 And they're going out with these moose.

12
13 Aniak people, I'm very good friends with
14 them, the airline people. And I ask how much moose meat
15 you guys are hauling out and they all say, what moose meat,
16 all we're hauling out of your area is the horns. I said,
17 well, aren't they supposed to have like boxes of meat, you
18 know, and they come out to get the moose meat to eat and
19 all this stuff, oh, no, all we're doing is tagging horns
20 and shipping by Northern Air Cargo, we're not hauling out
21 any meat. And they wouldn't lie to me, I've been flying
22 back and forth for about 25 years, between Holy Cross and
23 Aniak, and they're telling the truth when they tell me you
24 guys are losing a lot of meat by letting them hunters come
25 in.

26
27 So I know what I'm saying when I say
28 there's a lot of wanton waste. I know what I'm saying when
29 I say we're trying to do our best to keep our lands there
30 with our game and our fish for our generations to come.
31 It's not saying it just to hear myself talk.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. I do have
36 a question and, I, too, don't know who to address this to.
37 But on the bottom of Page 68, effect of the proposal, that
38 first line, adoption of the proposal would restrict access
39 for Federally-qualified subsistence users, where does that
40 come into play?

41
42 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, what that is in
43 reference to, that anyone living in the communities down
44 there, in other words, local subsistence users who happen
45 to own airplanes and access the proposed closure area for
46 the purposes of harvesting moose or taking moose meat out
47 of the area with the airplane would also be affected by
48 this. They would also fall under the same restriction.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Further comments

00078

1 or discussion. We do have a motion on the floor to adopt
2 Proposal 29.

3

4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: I want to clarify then, if we
9 vote in favor of this it will close any Federal land within
10 that triangle basically on the east side there where we
11 drew that line but we have to understand that quite a bit
12 of it's going to be State land and there would have to be a
13 State action to actually complete that. I mean that
14 closure in there, is that an understanding -- and -- yeah,
15 okay. Yeah, I kind of question how many subsistence
16 hunters are flying in there, too, unless they're coming out
17 of Aniak or somewhere because I'm not aware of anyone from
18 Holy Cross, Anvik or Grayling that has a float plane that
19 would fly in there as a subsistence hunter, most of them
20 have boats and would be hauling it out by boat, I don't
21 know. I was curious about where those comments come from
22 unless they're people from the Kuskokwim or somewhere that
23 are flying over there -- or Bethel that are flying over
24 with float planes.

25

26 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, that was thrown
27 in as a process consideration for you. Just so you
28 understand, if the Board were to adopt this restriction it
29 would also effect local users who may happen to use
30 airplane for this reason. I don't have names of people, I
31 don't have numbers for you. But I'm saying, that would be
32 part of the restriction you would need to take into
33 consideration.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Taylor.

40

41 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you. Some questions
42 were asked as to land status of the BLM blocks of land
43 involved in the potential closure area and these are lands
44 that would be managed out of the Anchorage Field Office.
45 So unfortunately, none of us are able to provide you with
46 precise detail.

47

48 I would like to go on and make the general
49 comment that cooperative management planing and problem-

50 solving of this sort often takes many years and we've seen

00079

1 very constructive examples, today, about all of the effort
2 that has gone into cooperative moose management on the
3 Koyukuk River. The comment was made that we'd like to see
4 some of the same work done on the Innoko River and I
5 believe for the first time we actually have some specific
6 funding set aside to convene user groups, stakeholder
7 groups to talk together and work out these shared
8 solutions. I think the point that the Federal Subsistence
9 Board can only act in a limited part of this area is a
10 fairly significant point. To be truly effective, to
11 achieve the goals that will address these issues, it would
12 be more helpful to have joint action by the State Board of
13 Game and the Federal Subsistence Board at the same time.
14 And since we have a user group forum, we have resources
15 made available to start that process now, I would speak in
16 favor of working through a user group conflict resolution
17 process to achieve a joint change in both State and Federal
18 regulations.

19
20 I've just asked of Terry, whether that
21 would result in a great delay or whether the State Board
22 would be able to address this question soon. And he said
23 that the schedule is such that the Alaska Board of Game
24 would be able to address a question of this sort in the
25 next annual cycle. So I think there's some specific
26 opportunities to work together with the various user groups
27 and then to go to both the State and the Federal Boards
28 next year seeking a joint action that would affect the
29 entire block of land that we think needs to be protected
30 here.

31
32 I think the importance of the conflicts has
33 been amply demonstrated in the testimony. There is a
34 problem. There is a need to address this directly, step by
35 step, starting now, and I think this user group conflict
36 resolution group constitutes an effective way to move
37 forward.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor. Anymore
42 discussion. We do have a motion on the floor to adopt.
43 Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Taylor, what is the time line
46 of this user conflict, that will begin this spring some
47 time or summer or what?

48 MR. BRELSFORD: The money has been set
49 aside as of Monday last week, February 26th, when the Board

50 met and recognized the need to draw together the various

00080

1 stakeholders starting at -- looking both at the fisheries
2 issues and at the moose issues. Generally speaking, I know
3 that the Fisheries Information Services is trying to settle
4 the cooperative agreements to initiate that work within the
5 next month, so I think I would say the time frame to begin
6 this would be within the next six to eight weeks, actually
7 trying to commence the work on the ground.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions.
10 Discussion. Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since we're on
13 that cooperative thing, it might be -- what Taylor brought
14 up, the conflict resolution, it might be wise at this point
15 to ask Jim Schwarber up. I've been asked on the federal
16 side to take charge of that process and so we are trying to
17 put that together and are looking at some time lines
18 similar to what Taylor has set out. But Jim Schwarber was
19 looking at it from his perspective and his status within
20 Fish and Game, I don't know if that's appropriate now or
21 not. I've been in consultation with Jim and in
22 consultation with a couple other people and where we're
23 going to go with this. So it's up to the Council if you'd
24 like to hear from Jim, he's done some background
25 discussions on this.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jim, are you still around
28 or.....

29

30 MR. SCHWARBER: Yes, I can do that now.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, please, we'd like to
33 put everything together and get it over with.

34

35

36 MR. SCHWARBER: Mr. Chair, my name is Jim
37 Schwarber, I work as a planner with the Department of Fish
38 and Game within the Sportfish Division. I'll be real brief
39 in my comments just to update you on the approach that the
40 Sportfish is taking in response to the issues you've been
41 discussing on, primarily again the fisheries issues as they
42 result in concerns we've been hearing around the table
43 today and we've been hearing in Nulato last September and
44 October and at other forums.

45

46 Basically the Sportfish Division's
47 attention was brought to this matter in regards to a
48 proposal that came up to close sportfishing there and so we
49 started examining this from several different perspectives.

50 What ended up taking place, briefly, there was another

00081

1 proposal to reduce the bag limits for pike in that area
2 which I believe the Board of Fish did approve recently so
3 there's been a reduction in the bag limit on pike. That
4 wasn't meant to correct the problems but was just a start
5 in that direction. Also a research proposal was submitted
6 to the Federal Fisheries Information Service to do some
7 comprehensive research on the pike status and trends in the
8 Innoko River. We were disappointed that that funding
9 wasn't available to fund that research at this time but I
10 would like to bring some news on that front that Region 3
11 of the Sportfish Division has decided to fund a \$70,000
12 pike project out of its own funding starting in fiscal year
13 2002 because we all agreed that there is a need to get some
14 information about the biology of the pike there.

15
16 But in addition to the biological
17 questions, as a planner, last November, I put together a
18 concept paper which we're passing around, where I proposed
19 that we gather some information to get a better
20 understanding of the different perspectives on the user
21 conflicts and the user issues involving fisheries on the
22 Innoko, and once that information is gathered, to design an
23 appropriate public process or stakeholder process to
24 perhaps convene a working group to start addressing these
25 issues and find, you know, if there's -- at a minimum to
26 have some communication among the parties, improve
27 understanding among the parties and perhaps explore some
28 actions that could take place or some recommendations, but
29 at least to build some understanding on that.

30
31 Where we are right now is we're -- the
32 Sportfish Division, with its own funds has been doing this
33 assessment process. We were pleasantly surprised last week
34 when the Federal Board set aside some money that will
35 actually fund a process in this area. So we're actually
36 all working, I think, in the same direction and my purpose
37 for coming here is to just share information with you that
38 we are interested in finding a working group approach that
39 will work for that. My boss is supportive of having me
40 take a lead role in that if that's the wish of the
41 stakeholders but we're trying to involve all the parties as
42 we move ahead with both the Councils and the local
43 communities and the different agencies.

44
45 And to wrap this up, Mr. Chair, we do have
46 some money for research, an assessment which is underway
47 which we would like to finish probably in April which would
48 lead to developing, with the appropriate parties, an
49 investigation plan for the use of this money. But that's

50 still ahead of us, but we wanted to just let folks know

00082

1 that the Sportfish Division is committed to working in this
2 area with the affected stakeholders.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: This Council was involved in
5 setting aside some of this money so I think at that time we
6 specifically asked that it include game management, so
7 you've got to find more money or you've got that money?
8 Vince.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. Jim did cover
11 that also, it's going to be a joint effort. It's exciting
12 to have people wanting to get on to plan things instead of
13 trying to get people interested in planning. So right now
14 we're trying to work through all that. But it was clear
15 from the actions of the Federal Subsistence Board that this
16 would look at the user conflicts and it would incorporate
17 wildlife so we just haven't had a chance to talk to
18 everybody about it.

19

20 So I don't think there will be a need for
21 additional money but we don't know, we haven't really met
22 to discuss all that so we're going to have to work this
23 out. But it is going to cover the conflicts for the areas
24 as I understand it, not just in the fish light.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
27 discussion? Any comments? Randy. The mike please.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you did send a
30 letter in on this earlier and this is the follow-up kind of
31 to the letter. Randy may cover that, where in an earlier
32 meeting it was discussed about supporting a wildlife
33 planning effort and you drafted a letter and sent it in.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Randy.

36

37 MR. ROGERS: Yes, just to be brief. We
38 received the letter. You know, I'd already been talking
39 with David James and others about that this was a potential
40 project, working with moose in the GASH area. It's a
41 project that's pretty high on our list and it is
42 conceivable that we might have attempted to launch the
43 project by now were it not for the fact that the area
44 biologist, Toby Budreau, is pretty completely involved in
45 the Unit 19(D) situation there in McGrath and I guess it
46 was our judgment that that was a more urgent situation to
47 address, at least, initially. So at this point I can tell
48 you that it's pretty high on the list.

49

As you guys are probably aware, we have

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1 launched a planning effort for Yukon Flats moose, that's my
2 major project right now. I've been told a little bit about
3 the recent funding proposal and the fact that this does
4 potentially involve moose but I haven't had a chance to
5 communicate with Vince or others about how we might
6 approach a cooperative effort there, so I really think
7 there's a need for us to get together to sort this out and
8 that we would certainly be interested in contributing to
9 that effort. I'm not sure exactly how it would play out
10 but I can, at least, assure you that it's high on our list
11 of priorities, you know, within the Staff capabilities that
12 we have.

13
14 You know, I guess to be quite honest, I'm
15 concerned that I would have sufficient time to really
16 devote to this to do it right and we don't want to really
17 even get into it unless we're convinced we were prepared to
18 do it right.

19
20 But I think between all the combined
21 agencies involved in this that there's certainly potential
22 there. So, you know, I'm certainly interested in working
23 with Vince, Jim Schwarber and others to see how we could
24 approach it. As far as immediate time line, I can't tell
25 you what that adds up to, but my guess is that it would
26 take a little while to get it organized and launched and it
27 would be a little bit of a precedent setting thing to have
28 a project that combined the fish and game issues at once.
29 It makes almost too much sense for our bureaucracies, but I
30 think we ought to give it a try. Anyhow, I hope that helps
31 a little bit.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I've got a question for
36 Henry as the proposer of the motion. Henry, would you feel
37 comfortable if we maybe endorsed the concept of expanding
38 the controlled use area but refer it to this working group
39 instead of to the State Board so that the working group
40 could look at both the State and the Federal land and try
41 to come up with a solution that would fix the whole thing
42 as opposed to just approving it now and referring it to the
43 State Board who could only act on a portion of it? Would
44 you feel.....

45
46 MR. DEACON: Are they in motion to act on
47 this now, how soon will it be?

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Well, they're just in the

50 process of forming this committee now is what we're hearing

00084

1 but this would be one of the things on the table then, they
2 could look at it; can we solve these problems by expanding
3 the controlled use area covering both State and Federal
4 lands.

5 MR. DEACON: Okay. Well, I can live with
6 that, I think, as long as they don't take too long.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela, would you be willing
9 to wait or not on this one?

10
11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Well, if that's the case
14 then, Mr. Chairman, I would move a substitute motion that
15 we replace this with a motion -- or use the mover and
16 seconder with their understanding that this get adopted but
17 referred to the committee as opposed to being referred to
18 the Board, whichever is.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you understand this,
21 Angela, that we refer this to the working group that we
22 intend to form shortly?

23
24 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you understand this,
27 Henry, that we will refer it to the working group between
28 all the user conflicts on the GASH area? Refer that
29 because I think that would be best at this time and that
30 way we can work through both State and Federal Boards to
31 alleviate this problem.

32
33 MR. DEACON: Yeah, well, I'll agree with it
34 as long as they make it a priority.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, maybe you could amend
37 the motion that we keep it on the back burner but at this
38 time we just refer it to the working group that's being
39 formed, just amend the motion or something? Anybody.
40 Angela moved and Henry.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: So it's theirs.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you move to adopt this --
45 how would we fix this?

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Well, I was thinking
48 parliamentary, I guess, mover and seconder, if they agreed
49 to adopt but to refer to the working group instead of

50 referring it to the Federal Board at this point. Do you

00085

1 understand that? Yeah.

2

3 MR. DEACON: I'd like to know the reason
4 why you'd want to refer it to the -- it's more -- if we do
5 that -- not otherwise.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, at this time we'll take
8 a break and come back for more discussion. How much time
9 do we need, about 15 minutes -- five or 10 minutes. Go
10 ahead and get coffee.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'll call the Western
17 Interior Council meeting back to order. Any further
18 discussion, we do have a motion on the floor -- any further
19 discussion?

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I thought about
26 how to proceed with this proposal during the break and I
27 think to retain the proposal, the idea within this Council,
28 to table the proposal so that -- and then move that idea
29 forward to the planning group and if the planning group
30 flies all apart, the proposal will be in our packet again
31 next fall as far as I know, so I would think that by
32 tabling the proposal at this Council level will retain it
33 in the Council and then move that idea forward to the
34 planning group, and if the group doesn't work it will be on
35 our agenda next fall.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Jack, in the group we also
40 talked about a solution that we go ahead and approve it,
41 which would take it to the Federal Subsistence Board and
42 then the Federal Subsistence Board could refer it to the
43 committee; you see what I mean, because it's our
44 endorsement? That's kind of what happened up the Koyukuk
45 where there was a proposal to close an area and then that
46 got referred -- so it might be an incentive for getting the
47 working group going.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion? We

50 do have a motion and a second to approve Proposal 29 with

00086

1 all the ramifications -- man, I can't even talk
2 anymore.....

3
4 MR. COLLINS: The modified proposal.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this right now, then,
7 Vince, that we did modify?

8
9 MR. COLLINS: Do we have to label it
10 modified proposal to make sure that that's what we're
11 endorsing?

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't think so, I think
14 it's understood by all agencies and all Council members
15 here that if we do pass this that the only thing we hit is
16 the Federal lands and is that clear?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the mover of the motion
19 and the second, do they understand that it's the modified
20 -- that's the question before us so the mover of the motion
21 was Angela and I think the second was -- was it Henry or
22 was it Ray?

23
24 REPORTER: It was Henry.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: It was Henry. So do they
27 understand that the motion was addressing the modified
28 proposal, if they do then we just move ahead, if they don't
29 then they can do a friendly amendment and clarify it that
30 it's for the modified proposal.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: What modification are we
33 talking about now, I thought we were just going to.....

34
35 MR. COLLINS: The original one was all of
36 21, the modified one is something less.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's already understood
39 isn't it?

40
41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

42
43 MR. DEACON: (Nods affirmatively)

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's what I was
46 trying to get on the record that it's understood and
47 Angela's heading her head in the positive motion, so that
48 should be recorded on the record. And does the second
49 understand that?

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, he's nodding yes also.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: He's nodding in the positive
4 motion, too.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, it's clear. It's
7 clearly understood by all Council members and the Chair
8 will call the question then. So all in favor of the motion
9 to adopt Proposal 29, with the amendment, signify by saying
10 aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just so I can
21 keep track of this, you did support the proposal as
22 modified by the proponent and that the reasoning for
23 supporting the proposal was taken from testimony from Mr.
24 Reakoff citing Section 815 of ANILCA that restricting of
25 non-subsistence uses on public lands can only occur unless
26 necessary for conservation of healthy populations or to
27 allow the continued subsistence uses of such populations;
28 is that -- I think that's the intent of the motion was to
29 accommodate Section 815 of ANILCA.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Well.....

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: That's not -- I didn't say
36 that during this proceeding but that's what the Board is
37 going to do. The Board is going to have to address this
38 proposal under that line and what -- you know, if we would
39 have tabled and let the Board be aware of this proposal --
40 but if we propose it to the Board, the Board can't do
41 anything with it, they'll have to put it at the user group,
42 it will still come back -- it's going to bounce back to us
43 one way or another.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

46

47 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chair, I'm a little
48 unclear about where you're going with this. Now, it's my
49 understanding that the Council has just supported the

50 modified proposal. It was my intent that you wanted to

00088

1 have direction to the Federal Board that they would refer
2 this to the working group that's being created?

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's our intention at this
5 time. But we do -- still look forward to getting it
6 somehow in front of the State Board to expand this
7 controlled use area at some time or another.

8

9 MR. HAYNES: If I could, Mr. Chairman, I
10 might encourage you to include some language to that effect
11 so that when this goes to the Federal Board Staff Committee
12 for deliberation, they have a clear understanding of your
13 intent. And with that language included, that you're
14 wanting to have the Board look at this, refer it to this
15 new committee that's being created, it will be much easier
16 to get the Department's support for this.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to
21 have a cover letter drafted to the Board regarding this
22 proposal that it's our intention that it go before the
23 Innoko working group, to be resolved at that level but also
24 if that process fails that it will be returned for
25 reconsideration.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. All those
30 in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Does that
39 take care of it?

40

41 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 30.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Proposal
46 30, Laura's going to be the presenter of the analysis on
47 that and I'm just a little flat-footed here on the page and
48 all that so maybe we can catch up here through Laura.

49

CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, we've got it,

00089

1 it's on Page 74. I think that's the first page. The Chair
2 will entertain a motion to adopt or support Proposal No.
3 30.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: I so move Mr. Chairman.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded
10 to adopt Proposal 30. Staff analysis.

11
12 MS. JURGENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
13 your booklets there was an error with the printing, Page 81
14 and 82 there's a Tab D, divider and it continues -- then
15 there's a cover page for the Koyukuk Moose Management plan,
16 at least that was in my book -- it was only my book that
17 had that?

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

20
21 MS. JURGENSEN: Never mind. Laura
22 Jurgensen, Office of Subsistence Management. Proposal 30
23 submitted by Jack Wholecheese, first chief of the Huslia
24 Tribal Council requests the creation of a new Federal
25 controlled use area in Unit 24 directly adjacent to the
26 existing Koyukuk controlled use area or KCUA. The intent
27 is to protect moose numbers from air taxis, transporting
28 non-local hunters beyond the KCUA. The proponent states
29 that non-local fly-in hunters will overharvest the country
30 where people from Huslia hunt for moose and bear. The
31 Huslia and Dakli River are tributaries of the Koyukuk and
32 are upriver from the village of Huslia. Both river
33 drainages have a high density of lakes and support moose
34 that have reportedly become the focus of attention by some
35 guided hunters.

36
37 Huslia residents report that non-local fly-
38 in hunters are targeting moose directly outside the KCUA
39 boundary. They believe guided hunters are overharvesting
40 the moose population on the lower Dakli/Huslia River
41 drainage north of Treat Island. This area lies just
42 outside the perimeter of the KCUA.

43
44 The proposed, I'll call it CUA for the new
45 Dakli controlled use CUA, is mainly on Federal public lands
46 consisting of approximately 21 percent each of BLM,
47 National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife. The majority
48 being the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. Rural
49 residents of Unit 24 and residents of Anaktuvuk Pass,

50 Koyukuk, Galena all have a customary and traditional use

00090

1 for moose in Unit 24.

2

3

4 Referring to your map again, the
5 descriptions of the potential new controlled use area, I
6 worked on with the proponent, Jack Wholecheese and again he
7 gave me some guidance as far as what the boundaries were
8 and what the Huslia's traditional hunting grounds were. As
9 you all know, user conflict issues in this area, including
10 hunter competition and congestion for moose have been a
11 consistent concern of local residents, at least, since the
12 early 1980s when numbers of non-local hunters began
13 increasing in the area. Local residents have repeatedly
14 reported to land managers about the problems with
15 overcrowding, increased competition and wanton waste of
16 fish and wildlife resources. The Alaska Board of Game or
17 BOG addressed the issue of increasing numbers of fly-in
18 hunters by creating controlled use areas. There was strong
19 local support at this time for the KCUA voiced from Huslia,
20 Galena, Alatna, Hughes and others. Most, if not all
21 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the area under
22 consideration do not use airplanes to subsistence hunt,
23 rather, they chiefly depend on motorized boats, snowshoes,
24 snowmachines, sleds and their own two legs.

24

25 There are non-Federally qualified users who
26 access these areas via airplanes usually out of Bettles or
27 Galena. In 2000 the Board of Game changed its fall season
28 regulations for moose in the Koyukuk controlled use area by
29 adopting the recommendations of the Koyukuk Moose Hunter's
30 Working Group as Randy and others spoke of and you had a
31 good review of that and this shifted the fall subsistence
32 season five days earlier to provide 10 days of subsistence
33 hunting before the general hunting season began basically
34 giving Huslia and other residents first crack at the moose
35 in their area and the Federal Subsistence Board adopted
36 similar regulations in the 2000/2001 regulatory year. And
37 then as Mike Walleri and the Koyukuk Task Force spoke, they
38 also have submitted special action requests and now
39 proposals addressing potential overuse and harvest of this
40 area of non-locals, perhaps non-residents.

41

42 With the draft Koyukuk Moose Management
43 plan, the 2000 season tested its provisions. It appears
44 that the 2000 hunt was a success for subsistence users and
45 a few non-local users. For purposes of this plan, Unit 24
46 has been divided into management zones and depending on
47 moose population density, hunter numbers, and methods of
48 access. The uniform coding units or UCUs directed these
49 zone boundaries in order to carefully monitor moose

50 population and harvest amounts. Now, the areas involving

00091

1 the proposed controlled use area covered by the map are
2 areas 301, which is the main Huslia River, 302 Kaiyuk area,
3 303 Billy Hawk Creek, 304 Huslia River, Southfork, 305
4 Huslia River, northfork, and 401 Dakli River. The plan and
5 the working group have taken the population of this entire
6 area into consideration for the draft Koyukuk Moose
7 Management plan.

8
9 At the last moose management working group,
10 concern was voiced over guides and air taxis flying hunters
11 into non-Koyukuk controlled use area -- protected area
12 lakes, though the majority of comments were positive,
13 adding that they would like to revisit all issues at least
14 annually.

15
16 The Alaska Division of Wildlife Protection
17 was also encouraged to step up law enforcement in the area
18 because of reported illegal trespass, wanton waste, dirty
19 camps and pollution, they did step up their efforts and
20 apparently local residents voiced their appreciation for
21 that.

22
23 But as far as the biological background and
24 you've heard some of this earlier by Fish and Game staff,
25 aerial surveys in November 2000 were conducted in three
26 parts of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, the Huslia
27 River Flats, Treat Island and Dulbi River mouth. These
28 areas total 389 square miles and are adjacent to or near
29 the proposed controlled use area addition. November snow
30 conditions were light but apparently adequate for these
31 aerial surveys. And despite an increase in cows, calf
32 productivity from this November 2000 survey was low at 14
33 calves to 100 cows. The management plan indicates a
34 guideline range of 20 to 30 calves to 100 cows to maintain
35 population stability. The Treat Island trend count area or
36 TCA is the closest area for which long-term trend data
37 exists. In comparison of moose density from 1985 to 1999
38 surveys indicate an increasing density to 1993 followed by
39 a decline in moose population to 1998.

40
41 So again, they're basically seeing a
42 declining trends. I believe you all -- according to the
43 Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife biologists -- I believe
44 you all have a copy o a separate sheet here. This was the
45 most recent moose data we have for Unit 24, specifically
46 Treat Island and this is provided by a GIS professional
47 technician out of -- Guy Hughes out of -- or with the
48 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and he summarizes that it
49 does appear that the calf and cow ratios are trending down

50 and at the same time the cows are trending up. One

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1 explanation of this data would be that predation on
2 yearling cows is increasing even though there are more cows
3 in the population and less calves are surviving the first
4 year.

5
6 While these recent decreases may not be
7 specifically significant, they probably indicate a
8 biological trend that should definitely be monitored
9 closely. Declining productivity might be more difficult to
10 address by short-term management actions if it is part of a
11 long-term trend related to habitat or predation conditions.

12
13 As far as harvest, as you well all know,
14 this is an area of very high harvest and high success rate.
15 It has been increasing steadily over the past decade,
16 especially in Ella's check cabin, recorded a total of 731
17 hunters in 1999 with 367 moose harvested. Now, this
18 compares to 299 hunters who harvested 181 moose 10 years
19 ago or 1988.

20
21 In 1998 and 1999, Dave Andersen and others
22 did harvest surveys door to door in the middle Yukon and
23 Koyukuk households with 91 percent of the households
24 reporting using moose. And this area is the highest use in
25 the state as far as people using moose and it's an
26 incredibly important subsistence resource as it is in all
27 areas of the state, I realize. And then Huslia and Alatna
28 had 100 percent households participating with high rates of
29 success in these moose hunts and moose reporting. And the
30 available harvest data isn't -- it's not as rich as it
31 could be but it does show increasing pressure by non-locals
32 using boats and not aircraft with a few aircraft access
33 hunters before 2000. Now, of the 12 hunters reported to
34 have hunted in the Dakli River area, 11 were non-resident
35 hunters using guide services and they reported using boat
36 access and not airplanes. It was reported that during the
37 1999 season an aircraft had landed on Solsmunket Lake
38 immediately outside the KCUA and dropped off hunters. And
39 it was not clear as to the actual area as far as the land
40 boundary or whether it was inside or outside of the KCUA.

41
42 As a result of other 2000 regulatory
43 changes, the guides took a 75 percent cut in their
44 commercial business and guides are still taking customers
45 through the Huslia airport but there are fewer due to the
46 fewer permits available to them.

47
48 It has been suggested by State and Federal
49 personnel working in Unit 24 and it's been suggested to the

50 proponent, Chief Jack Wholecheese to, perhaps work this

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1 type of proposal through the working group process since
2 it's in formation and a lot of these problems are on the
3 burner and are being addressed -- or on the table, I should
4 say.

5
6 As far as the important cultural
7 background, specific traditional use within these areas has
8 been documented extensively for the Dakli and Huslia River,
9 of course, including the Hogatza, Kateel and Gisasa.
10 They're long-term traditional hunting, fishing gathering
11 areas presumably since the day of the old site of Kateel in
12 the Koyukuk. The Koyukon have traditional rules of
13 behavior or taboos called hutlaane which govern all
14 behavior including respectful treatment and non-waste of
15 what the animals provide for the people. A common
16 Athabascan value is the great respect for elders, knowledge
17 and wisdom of life experiences. This is especially true
18 and current in Huslia and the other Koyukuk River villages.
19 Many are expert outdoorsmen who intimately know the cycles
20 for their food resources. Therefore, careful consideration
21 should be given to proponent First Chief Jack Wholecheese
22 as he witnesses the moose numbers and hunter patterns on a
23 different and non-agency perspective. His experience and
24 perspectives on this issue have merit.

25
26 Access to area lakes and other spots very
27 far away from Huslia favors fly-in, non-local hunters due
28 to the amount of gear, price of gas, amount of meat to pack
29 out and other factors. Local subsistence users rely on
30 those moose ranging across these lake areas toward the
31 rivers for their subsistence harvest.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page are we on?

34
35 MS. JURGENSEN: I'm sorry?

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page are we on and how
38 many more pages do you have to go?

39
40 MS. JURGENSEN: I'm sorry, I'll wrap it up,
41 I'm taking too long, Page 85.

42
43 Okay, I believe the potential effects of
44 this proposal would add an additional 397 square miles and
45 presumably an increased number of available permits.
46 Therefore, the intent to protect subsistence users harvest
47 success rates might have the opposite effect by increasing
48 the numbers of hunters eligible to hunt in the new
49 controlled use area.

00094

1 So after much deliberation and certainly
2 this is not a black and white issue, my preliminary
3 conclusion was to oppose the proposal because it didn't
4 seem like the problem was really with aircraft transporting
5 non-local guided hunters in. There did appear to be a
6 potential trend, though, in that area with non-locals and
7 perhaps a guide targeting that area with boats and the
8 creation of a new controlled use area would not address
9 this problem as far as I could ascertain.

10
11 I'd also just like to thank everyone who
12 helped on this proposal and acknowledge that the proponent
13 is in attendance today and thank him for working with me.
14 Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Laura, does this
17 proposal encompass all Federal lands -- or only Federal
18 lands?

19
20 MS. JURGENSEN: Yes, only Federal lands and
21 it puts potentially approximately a half a township of
22 Doyon lands so State jurisdictional control there.

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Terry.

24
25 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
26 Department does not support this proposal. Our comments
27 are on Page 90 of your workbook. Hunting pressure in this
28 area that's proposed for closure is very low and probably
29 involves fewer than 20 hunters annually. The harvest of
30 moose by these hunters is well below sustainable yield.
31 Most of these hunters access the area by river boat and
32 therefore would not be impacted by the proposed
33 prohibitions on aircraft use. Adoption of this proposal
34 also would be inconsistent with provisions of the Koyukuk
35 River Moose Management plan.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Terry. Vince,
40 what's next on this?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, now, would be
43 the time if there is any public testimony and real quickly,
44 for my part, there is no written public comments.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack
47 Wholecheese, there's a microphone up there, turn it on and
48 state your name.

49

MR. WHOLECHEESE: My name is Jack

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1 Wholecheese, First Chief, Huslia, Alaska. The reason we
2 submitted this proposal was that like you said -- what's
3 your name?

4
5 MR. HAYNES: Terry.

6
7 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Terry, you're against
8 this proposal, I don't see how you could be against
9 something that you probably don't even know nothing about.
10 You're not a subsistence user, you're not from my village,
11 you're not from the Koyukuk River and still, you say, that
12 there aren't that many hunters going up by airplane. There
13 are hunters going up by airplane. They're being dropped
14 off in the lakes and the lakes at Dalki Flats are pretty
15 close to each other. You could land a person on a lake and
16 they could canoe over to the next lake and they could canoe
17 to another lake until they hit the Dalki River and then
18 float down and do their hunting. I don't know if you took
19 this into consideration but that's the truth.

20
21 And then when they do land, we don't have
22 access to get up there to see how they're treating our
23 respected lands. We don't know if they're leaving trash
24 there and as we all know, trash kills animals, too.
25 There's a lot of traditional use that is being brought in
26 by Huslia people. It used to be when the guides first
27 started, they tried to give the meat -- or they did give
28 the meat to the people in the village but after the first
29 year I don't think there was a respected person -- a
30 respected Native elder that would have took the meat that
31 was brought to them, because it just wasn't worth it. They
32 wanted to get their own, to preserve their own. And
33 there's so much to be said about what's going on up there
34 that it's just too much to say. I mean if we got somebody
35 who really did some research and stayed up there and found
36 out what we're going through, you'd get a book. You'd get
37 a book.

38
39 And it's been said over and over, and over
40 and over, for years and years and years, we love our
41 culture. We want to preserve our culture. We want to go
42 in the old ways to where the Native people ran their own
43 subsistence lifestyle. We don't waste. We never used to
44 go by the government, we didn't have to have a government,
45 we were our own government. Because the people knew what
46 to get and what to preserve.

47
48 That's all I have to say. That's how come
49 we brought this proposal up. But it went through my whole

50 tribal council and a lot of our respected elders in Huslia

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1 are all for this proposal because a lot of them have
2 traplines up on Dalki River. We go through Dalki Flats to
3 go over to Shungnak, over to the hot springs, and we just
4 want to maintain our moose population and keep it down to
5 where it's just right for the Native people so that we
6 don't have to send for beef or chicken. We won't have to
7 revert and change our own lifestyle. We want to live the
8 way we've lived and been living from time and memorial.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Was there
13 anymore public testimony? Virgil Umpenhouer.

14

15 MR. UMPENHOUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Actually the proposal, what Mr. Wholecheese spoke about
17 wouldn't bother me a bit. The only thing is, you know, if
18 no one could fly an airplane up in that area because we
19 don't use airplanes in our guiding operation. However if
20 this is included, if this area of the Dakli and Huslia
21 River are included in the controlled use area then they
22 will be in the drawing permit area and the only people --
23 there were only three hunters that were not guided that
24 hunted there this last year and we hunted actually -- it
25 was reported earlier that they hunted on the Hogatza River,
26 they didn't hunt on the Hogatza River, they hunted on the
27 Huslia River and I know exactly where they hunted because
28 they got up there and they were lost and didn't know where
29 they were at and we told them where they were. But the
30 only guides that operate up there besides my son and myself
31 all are residents of the village of Huslia, the meat all
32 goes to their families and like I said earlier, to disabled
33 and old people and single mothers. That is where the meat
34 goes to.

35

36 The Dakli River, in a normal water year, a
37 person with a small boat with a prop on it can go almost to
38 the edge of the wildlife refuge but not quite, they can't
39 quite go that far. If it's a low water year, even with a
40 jet boat, you have trouble getting up there. It's a small
41 stream and the access is extremely difficult. I'll tell
42 you how many hunters hunted in the Dakli last year, we took
43 two hunters up the Dakli River last year, that's all. And
44 the Huslia River, we took seven hunters outside of the
45 controlled use area. There were the three other hunters,
46 guys from Wasilla or Willow or someplace.

47

48 Another thing that you should know is that
49 the village of Huslia does not sell gas to hunters. They

50 have to bring their gas all the way from either Galena or

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1 Koyukuk or do like I do, charter a DC-4 and fly it in and
2 then haul my other gas from Hughes. And so very few
3 hunters hunt there. A few air taxi operators have dropped
4 people off on some of those lakes in the past, I don't
5 think they've been very successful. I've talked to some of
6 their clients that they've dropped off. Only one moose was
7 shot in this area by a resident of Huslia and his name was
8 Warner Vint, he was the only person that shot a moose up
9 the Huslia River this year. The people who live in Huslia
10 do not hunt outside of the controlled use area on the Dakli
11 River primarily because the only jet boats in that village
12 I own or myself and the guides that work with me in Huslia
13 own. The Huslia River, you have to go from the village of
14 Huslia to get outside of the controlled use area by boat,
15 if you go up the Huslia River it's 60 miles, to get up the
16 Dakli River from the village it's 70 miles, but that's how
17 many river miles it is.

18
19 But I just -- because I spend the entire
20 month of September up there, I'd like you to know what I
21 see. Now, I also -- because we have a camp, normally the
22 guys from Koyukuk and Kaltag, the guides that live there,
23 they operate in the lower Kateel River and then if we have
24 permits, in the Three Day Slough area. And so if I make
25 that trip -- this last year I made it three times during
26 the hunting season besides the first time going up. The
27 first time going up because I drive my boat that I use from
28 the bridge, I went up the river to the Kateel, I spent the
29 night of the 2nd of September on the Kateel, drove up to
30 Huslia on the 3rd and I came back down on the 4th and back
31 up on the 6th, all the way up to the Dakli River, when I
32 made that trip, I saw a total of 10 camps between Huslia
33 and the Kateel River, that's all. And then when I came
34 back down again on the 16th, I saw a total of 11 camps,
35 that's all I saw but I didn't go into Three Day Slough, but
36 on the main river. And then I came down again on the 21st
37 of September and again I saw 11 camps, there were very few
38 people hunting in the area. But prior to the permit
39 drawing thing, I would maybe see 50 camps. But the most I
40 saw at any one time was 11 camps.

41
42 So the only thing that would happen if this
43 gets included in the controlled use area and it's part of
44 the drawing permit process, is a bunch more permits will be
45 issued because there are a lot of moose in this area, but
46 those people will not hunt in the Dakli or Huslia drainages
47 because it's too far to get there. They have to haul their
48 gas, a minimum of where they can hunt, from Galena, a very
49 minimum of 320 miles one way to get there. And you can't

50 take a small jet boat that will go up that stream and carry

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1 that much gas.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, proposals like
8 this and other ones that you've dealt with we usually try
9 to get all the different agencies up to the table so it
10 might be a good time to ask the Refuge if they have any
11 comments or would just like to participate in this
12 discussion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was my next move
15 because I see Gene Williams here and I see Pollack Simon
16 raising his hand. Pollack Simon, did you want to testify
17 on Proposal 30? Pollack Simon of Allakaket.

18

19 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I think I'm on the right
20 topic this time.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. SIMON: The last time I was talking
25 about a different proposal so, thanks again for inviting
26 me.

27

28 I kind of want to support what Jack
29 Wholecheese has said. I am the Chairman of the Koyukuk
30 River Advisory Committee and we've had a lot of meetings
31 over the years in Huslia and the residents concern was
32 always the hunter pressure from outside on the declining
33 moose. This is one way to try to ward off the outside
34 hunters. It's really true that below Huslia, you know, the
35 hunting pressure is reduced there, they have to go
36 someplace and maybe they -- more would be hunting up Dakli
37 River. I, personally don't like to see a lot of hunting
38 pressure there because I know from previous meetings in
39 Huslia, the residents are really concerned about the moose
40 population and they can't compete with outside hunters.

41

42 That area has more moose than a lot of
43 areas so I am personally concerned about the moose around
44 that area, too. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pollack. At this
47 time I would like to call on Gene Williams, Refuge manager.
48 Yeah, I see Orville Huntington up on the table. One of the
49 reasons that I wanted you out here is because earlier you

50 stated that there was very little aircraft operations up in

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1 this country, are you still of the same thought?

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, that is
4 correct. I will ask Orville to present the information
5 we've gleaned from our Refuge files identifying what has
6 actually occurred out there in the last three hunting
7 seasons. I'd do that, insomuch as Orville was contacted
8 early on by the Office of Subsistence Management. They
9 engaged him in dialogue -- so from the Refuge's standpoint,
10 i'd like to use him to help us reach closure on this
11 particular issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Orville, state
14 your name and your position, please.

15

16 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington,
17 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. I've handed out a little table
18 there that shows how much aircraft use was used for moose
19 hunting last fall. As you can see it's very minimal, the
20 documented use. And I think maybe what a lot of people may
21 be seeing is the caribou hunters that are flying over. And
22 I can't really say for sure on a lot of the -- there's a
23 lot of complaints within the village of Huslia that those
24 people have to come and document those complaints
25 themselves, and that's what I tried to stress at the tribal
26 council meetings when I was there. But as Gene said, the
27 use of aircraft in that area is very low. I had some other
28 things here, too, if you want me to talk about them.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Orville.

31

32 MR. HUNTINGTON: Once I got done with the
33 table I was -- I did have a resolution from Huslia Tribal
34 Council but I grabbed the wrong one, I grabbed my waterfowl
35 one and it did support Jack Wholecheese's proposal. I
36 don't have a copy of that, I think it was Resolution 01-12
37 and they gave me a copy but I misplaced it, sorry but we
38 could probably get that for you some time.

39

40 The Refuge's position is the Refuge does
41 not support Proposal 30 at this time. The data is just not
42 there to support it. And I have to emphasize, at this
43 time. And we want to give the Koyukuk Moose Hunter
44 Management plan time to work. I talked this over with a
45 lot of people and we're trying to get the kinks out of the
46 plan and one of the biggest pluses I could see is we have
47 -- Jack Wholecheese got selected to sit on the working
48 group, and with him in there I think a lot more can get
49 done because we'd rather be proactive -- take a proactive

50 approach to solving problems up there before they get to

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1 this point. I'm not saying this is a bad idea it's just
2 not supported at this time.

3

4 The other thing, aircraft, was not a big
5 part of this problem right now. As you guys emphasized and
6 Laura emphasized, that it's probably a lot of boat traffic
7 and somebody said, nobody hunted up there but actually I
8 was almost all the way to Blondie's Cabin last fall and I
9 went up there a couple times so I know I was up Huslia
10 River hunting. And I've always hunted up Dakli River in
11 the past with my family so that's just for the record, that
12 subsistence users use that area.

13

14 The Refuge has authority to establish the
15 controlled use area of subsistence hunters who qualify are
16 not meeting their subsistence needs and are not presented
17 an opportunity of subsistence. And that's -- the Koyukuk
18 Refuge is very firm on that, you know, if there was a need
19 they'd be there at the table but right now they just don't
20 feel that it's appropriate and the Refuge is willing to
21 revisit the issue if it can be justified by biological
22 data, if there's really data there then we could look at
23 it. The data we had last fall at the Koyukuk Moose Hunter
24 Working Group was not good enough for me to convince the
25 other working group members -- I take leave and I go to the
26 working group meetings, Jack wasn't there and we had some
27 really difficult issues and personally I really wanted to
28 support Glenn on that even though I'm a subsistence hunter,
29 you know, that -- I was appointed by the Koyukuk River
30 Advisory Committee as a subsistence hunter from Huslia and
31 I just didn't have the necessary votes to do anything
32 because the working group is not a perfect thing but it's
33 the best thing we have. It's just on the verge of falling
34 apart sometimes but somehow we hold it together and I think
35 Ron has seen where we're at with that and Jack, I know he
36 just missed one meeting but I've tried to make all of them
37 and I think that's probably the best thing we have right
38 now, is that, Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group plan.
39 It's not the best, it needs fine-tuning, but it's the best
40 we have for now.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. Any
43 questions for Orville or Gene Williams? Gene.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: I would simply like to close
46 with some comments about the air taxi business in general.
47 We've talked about it many times at the Koyukuk River Moose
48 Hunter Working Group sessions, it is, an essence, an
49 unregulated industry from the Refuge perspective. I have

50 no regulations on which to place a cap on the number of air

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1 taxi permits I issue. However, by nature of the business
2 it is self-regulating, you know, air taxi operators don't
3 operate as tour bus operators dumping people off in the
4 same corner. They're usually dealing with clients that are
5 buying once in a lifetime hunt. Those hunters are
6 expecting a wilderness experience, they're expecting not to
7 see anybody else, they're hoping to see the moose of a
8 lifetime. I think the record here demonstrates that the
9 Refuge has issued up to six permits for that particular
10 area in any one year over the last three years. However,
11 the business -- the numbers of hunters that have been
12 dumped off out there has been quite small.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gene. Do we have
15 a motion on the floor -- just for my -- okay. What's the
16 next step?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: You're at the deliberation
19 phase and open discussion, whatever, ask questions of other
20 people on this.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before I go any
23 further, right after this proposal we will be taking up the
24 Dalton Highway concerns. Ray, you had a question?

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Well, the question I had was
27 raised in some of the comments that expanding the area
28 would increase the number of permits and have an impact on
29 the moose management plan in place. Could someone clarify
30 on that, if this or is not the case and how it might
31 impact?

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, could you answer
34 that?

35
36 MR. STOUT: Mr. Collins, it was a little
37 unclear in the proposal exactly how we would administer the
38 controlled use area, whether it would be actually a new
39 controlled use area or whether it would be an increase in
40 the size of the Koyukuk controlled use area. There was
41 some discussion in the proposal that it was actually an
42 increase in the size of the Koyukuk controlled use area.
43 If that were the case and we expanded the size of
44 consideration for the moose population in the moose plan,
45 we would effectively count more moose. If we count more
46 moose then, because our strategy was based on the number of
47 moose in the population for distribution of permits, then
48 it would allow for the distribution or more permits. If
49 that were the case, those hunters wouldn't go up there.

50 They wouldn't go up there. Just because there's more

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1 permits that would allow them to access that area, they
2 would still congregate right down in the Three Day Slough
3 where they always have and we would be right back to where
4 we were by having concentrations of a lot of hunters in
5 that same place that's easily accessible because, like
6 we've discussed earlier here, the logistics of getting
7 really past Huslia is very tremendous and so if we just
8 increase the number of moose permits available we'd be
9 right back to the higher density of moose hunters in the
10 area.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Just for
13 clarification on my stand, too, again, going back to our
14 arguments with -- or our deliberations with Mr. Walleri,
15 while Glenn is here, that's one of the reasons, I think
16 that the working group stayed within that number, because
17 we expanded the area to issue permits all the way up to
18 Hughes to -- prior to this, you know, we were just working
19 below Huslia, and that's one of the reasons that we stayed
20 with that figure. And again, with this proposal, if we add
21 more area, we may be looking at issuing more permits up in
22 this area where people don't want anymore permits. And I'd
23 like to thank you for bringing that back up.

24
25 Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: What would be your best guess
28 as to density in that Dakli Flats country?

29
30 MR. STOUT: We don't have a trend area up
31 in there. I would say it's less than two moose per square
32 mile, probably somewhere on the order of 1.5 moose per
33 square mile. I would make a correction, too, on some of
34 that information there. There's discussion in the text
35 about the size of the increase in the area, and if you
36 recall, there was a proposal that was also submitted a year
37 ago for expansion of the controlled use area on the Dakli
38 River and when that proposal was sent forward, I did an
39 analysis on that for the Dakli River drainage and I
40 included the area of the Dakli River drainage which I
41 basically came up with that figure of 397 square miles and
42 that figure is for the Dakli River drainage alone, so I
43 don't know if that's where you were looking at as far as
44 going in expansion of numbers, but that number in there is
45 for the Dakli River area and it also included State land,
46 not just the Federal portion of that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49

MR. REAKOFF: Well, that gives me

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1 reservations about this proposal and if it's 500 square
2 miles, a moose and half a square miles, that's significant
3 more moose to be harvested and more permits to be handed
4 out that are going to be used down below on the Three Day
5 Slough country. So I have compassion for the proponent's
6 concerns with the numbers of air taxis that are flying
7 around but if more permits are to be handed out that are
8 going to conflict with people -- where the Huslia people
9 are actually hunting, then I would say that I would have to
10 be opposed to the competition where most of the subsistence
11 users hunt. So that would be my position on this proposal.
12
13

14 I would like to see this proposal brought
15 before the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group for
16 consideration in the deliberation at that level. But I
17 would be -- unless it could be an isolated controlled use
18 area where it has its own -- people are compelled to go
19 hunt there, I can't support it being included in the
20 Koyukuk controlled use area.
21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Did you
23 have something, Ray?
24

25 MR. COLLINS: Well, I guess the question
26 would be if you treat it as an area in itself and there is
27 a harvestable surplus of moose, you would still create a
28 permit situation and that might attract more non-local
29 hunters than are there now because it's another
30 opportunity. They couldn't get a permit down below so they
31 get on there and they would be going to the air taxi -- no,
32 they wouldn't go to the air taxi, they'd have to do it by
33 boat, wouldn't they, so they wouldn't -- I don't know.
34 Yeah, okay.
35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further Council concerns or
37 questions? At this time I'd like to thank you for staying
38 here, Glenn, I realize it's getting late. Any further
39 questions. Who made the motion to adopt?
40

41 REPORTER: Ray.
42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Ray made the
44 motion, seconded by Jack to adopt the proposal.
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're back in the same
47 format, if there are no further questions, the Chair will
48 ask for a question. So all those in the favor of the
49 motion, signify by saying aye.

00104

1 (No aye votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Support for Proposal 30

8 fails.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we still have
11 two proposals left, Proposal 24 and 27.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't that taken care of
14 yesterday?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: No, they weren't. One's
17 dealing with brown bear in Unit 19 and the other one is
18 dealing with the half mile restriction along the Yukon
19 River. So if you want we can go with Proposal 24.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 24, what page?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Laura's got.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hang on a second, what page
26 is it on?

27

28 MS. JURGENSEN: Page 6.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's that?

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Five.

33

34 MS. JURGENSEN: Five.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, in light of the
37 local concern about the fly-in hunting there, could we ask
38 that next year that the Refuge be bringing back a report to
39 see if there's an increase in fly-in hunting and so on so
40 that we'll just keep on top of it to know whether there's a
41 growing problem there. I think it would be good for us to
42 have, as far as the report, maybe, to hear next year.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: You get that?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think Randy
47 may want to speak to that and then maybe the Refuge.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, public and Council will

50 note that about 90 percent of our meetings are Koyukuk

00105

1 River. Randy, shortly.

2

3 MR. ROGERS: Just briefly I thought you
4 guys would want to know that at the Koyukuk River Advisory
5 Committee, Jack -- well, Vint, submitted on behalf of Jack,
6 a proposal similar to this one to the State Board system.
7 Jim Marcott is holding that one and planning to put that in
8 the hopper for the 2002 meeting which will focus on
9 Interior. So I think that that one, you know, could be
10 considered jointly with the Federal proposal by the
11 advisory committee and the working group so there's just
12 that potential process. I just wanted you to be aware that
13 it was filed with the State system.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, does that
18 address Ray's request there on -- maybe I'm lost.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Well, if the group is going
21 to be working on it, I assume we'll be hearing back on it,
22 you know, so we won't be just ignoring it. I just wanted
23 to make sure that we just didn't dismiss it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there any reason not to
26 act at this time?

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Going back to that past
29 proposal there, I would like to see tracking of that
30 aircraft access issue also. But I made rough calculations,
31 if the Huslia River would be including another 900 square
32 miles or so, there could be additional 60 some permits at a
33 seven and a half percent rate, you know, there should be
34 maybe 900 more moose made available to the hunt and then 60
35 something more moose put into the permit system, I -- I
36 just don't think that that's what we want to do. This
37 would be very counter productive. But I do want to track
38 that aircraft thing. I've been hearing about a lot of
39 aircraft access into the Selawik and caribou, if they're
40 supposed to develop an air taxi system, control system in
41 Unit 23, which then may drive air taxis down into Unit 24,
42 we should be right on top of what's going on with the air
43 taxi problem.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I hope you're wrong on that
46 one, Willie Goodwin says that we're driving up all the air
47 taxis up to his area. What kind of action do we need on
48 Unit 24?

49

MR. MATHEWS: It would be easier if we had

00106

1 a motion on the floor for Proposal 24.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
4 motion and a second on Proposal 24.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt
7 Proposal 01-24.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

10

11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela and Ray.
16 A short synopsis on this. I think we should just go ahead
17 and pass it without hearing anything really. Go ahead,
18 short Staff analysis.

19

20 MS. JURGENSEN: Short and sweet, this was
21 submitted by Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and
22 it seeks to partially align Federal regulations for brown
23 bear in Units 19(A) and 19(B). Basically you're changing
24 -- the regulations would change from one bear every four
25 years to one bear every year in the remainder of 19(A) and
26 19(B). And with this change it would make the Federal
27 restrictions actually less restrictive than the State for
28 the remainder. And the population appears able to
29 withstand this harvest as harvest in this area is low and
30 it would also help with defense of life and property or DLP
31 kills as increasing numbers of bears and other predators as
32 you've all said.

33

34 So my recommendation is to support the
35 proposal. And justification is, the recommended way below
36 harvest and that the numbers can sustain it and it would
37 partially line up the Federal regulations with the State
38 regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you. We don't
41 care about the population, this is one way that we can
42 actually pursue predator control.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: State.

47

48 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department's
49 comments are on Page 13 of your book. We support adoption

50 of this proposal. We do have some concern that we would

00107

1 like to see some good harvesting reporting. We think
2 that's going to be important because there is potential in
3 some parts of these subunits to have more of an impact on
4 the brown bear population than we would like. So we'd like
5 to see some assurances of good harvest reporting if this
6 proposal is adopted.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Isn't the more regulated by
9 the State than Feds, Terry?

10
11 MR. HAYNES: Well, this is a Federal
12 proposal here, that would -- I mean ideally, you know, we
13 have regulations that are consistent and we can have a
14 single harvest reporting system, you know, either the
15 sealing or some other mechanism. But we'd just like to --
16 because Federal lands are involved here, we'd like to have
17 assurances that there would be some Federal harvest
18 reporting.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. That
21 clarifies my question. Public comments. Did you have
22 anything written, Vince?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Written public comments.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: There were no written public
29 comments on this proposal. Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you. Do we have
32 any testimony on this proposal? If I understand this
33 right, we're just realigning in making our harvest in line
34 with the State, right? Jack.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I would suggest
37 that the State of Alaska has liberalized these seasons
38 there and they must have some type of reporting system,
39 whether it's a harvest report or registration or whatever,
40 that that be implemented for this under the Federal lands
41 also.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
44 discussion on Proposal 24? If not, all those in favor of
45 supporting Proposal 24, signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

00108

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next proposal.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the next
6 proposal is Proposal 27, it's in your book on Page 20.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a
9 motion to adopt Proposal 27 -- there's actually a lot more
10 proposals than I thought.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

15

16 MR. DEACON: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry Deacon.
19 Staff analysis.

20

21 MS. JURGENSEN: It's me again, Laura
22 Jurgensen. Proposal 27 submitted by the Western Interior
23 Regional Council on behalf of member Micki Stickman seeks
24 to remove the one-half mile winter moose hunt restrictive
25 buffer zone in Unit 21(D). This buffer zone is on the main
26 stem of the Yukon River and this change should be made to
27 allow local hunters additional opportunity to harvest moose
28 during the winter season, especially hunters who find it
29 difficult to travel one-half mile off the mainstem of the
30 Yukon.

31

32 State of Alaska and Federal regulations
33 currently have this one mile [sic] restrictive buffer zone
34 off the main stem. This was originally aimed at protecting
35 cows and it was also suggested by some local residents as a
36 traditional method of preserving the total moose population
37 and saving the easily accessible moose for times of
38 emergency or starvation times. Use of the Yukon River as a
39 highway to travel between the Middle Yukon River gives the
40 hunter the opportunity to harvest the animal who has
41 presented himself to the hunter and to not harvest such a
42 gift is against the Koyukon Athabascan spiritual and
43 ethological beliefs. Especially when you factor in the
44 past fish failures and few economic opportunities in the
45 villages.

46

47 The extent of Federal public lands in this
48 area is approximately 51 percent with the conservation
49 units primarily being the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge

50 and a part of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge.

00109

1 Federal jurisdiction represents one-third of the total
2 river edge miles in Unit 21(D) and private or State owned
3 lands constitute the majority. This half-mile zone is
4 intended to limit access and thereby preserve moose
5 numbers.

6
7 And since Micki's not here, on Page 28 or
8 29, 30, he basically stated and I've talked to him about
9 this, that he feels that it's onerous or an undue burden on
10 the local people. It doesn't make any sense to have to go
11 a half a mile off the river and people in cities don't have
12 to go half a mile to go to Safeway or Freds or Marketplace
13 to go and get their beef because they're going to shoot it
14 irregardless of whether they see it. So basically this
15 would be authorizing what is currently the practice.

16
17 As far as the biological and population
18 status, Refuge biologists suggest that the population is
19 stabilized and that this could -- by deleting this type of
20 buffer zone would not impact the moose numbers. And again,
21 looking at the trend count surveys from that area for
22 Kaiyuk Slough and Squirrel Creek, that backs it up. Again,
23 there's high harvest history for this area but it doesn't
24 appear that people in the villages are increasing their
25 days spent in the field so, again, this would not increase --
26 it's not expected to increase -- more moose take. And
27 again, it should be noted for the record that this type of
28 opportunistic hunting is a customary and traditional
29 pattern and can be likened to supporting this proposals
30 passage for unfettered chase and access.

31
32 In addition funeral and other traditional
33 potlatches are often held in the winter months or the
34 family of the deceased is preparing for a spring ceremony
35 and moose head soup is a Koyukon delicacy any time of the
36 year but especially desirable for important events such as
37 potlatches as you know.

38
39 So if passed, the effect of this proposal
40 would be to authorize, again, by written regulation, what
41 is the practice and also taking into consideration what the
42 local people are telling us. And again, the half-mile
43 buffer zone is unmarked and it places an undue burden on
44 qualified Federal subsistence users to have to determine
45 when they've gone half a mile off the river. So my
46 preliminary recommendation is to definitely support this
47 proposal.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

00110

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Laura. Terry
2 Haynes, Department.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department's
5 comments are on Page 33. We don't support this proposal at
6 this time. If you look at a map of Unit 21(D) you'll see
7 that there is very little Federal land that adjoins the
8 Yukon River and so inconsistency between State and Federal
9 regulations could cause a lot of confusion for hunters and
10 the real opportunities would be on a very limited amount of
11 land in the area. We would recommend that action be
12 deferred on this proposal until next year at which time it
13 could be taken up by the Board of Game as well as the
14 Federal Board and hopefully those changes be adopted in
15 synch. We have no opposition to the Board of Game looking
16 at this proposal next year, we just don't want to see the
17 Federal and State regulations out of synch in this area.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: But don't we already have a
22 State regulation authorizing the 10 day hunt at this time
23 in this area?

24
25 MR. HAYNES: But there's still a half-mile
26 or mile area of protection around the Yukon River.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
29 questions? Benedict. I'm getting off course again, but go
30 ahead, Benedict.

31
32 MR. JONES: Yeah, I don't think I'd support
33 this proposal. There's no Federal lands on -- within the
34 half-mile in the Koyukuk controlled use area on 21 --
35 remainder of 21(D). So I'd say leave it as it is.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did I miss anybody, do we
38 have public comments or anything?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, no cards were
41 turned in but there may be some here who would like to
42 testify. I don't see any hands going up.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Jack.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I've been on this
47 Council awhile and I remember where this line came from,
48 Sidney Huntington testified in Galena two or three times
49 about the reason for this restriction and it was because it

50 was his heartfelt opinion that the cows and the calves

00111

1 moved right up to the river in deep snow years and he
2 wanted to protect the mothers and the babies and that's why
3 he -- that's where this proposal came from, he used to be
4 on the Game Board. So that was his line of thinking with
5 this restriction, this half-mile restriction.

6
7 That restriction was made when moose were
8 probably at a lot lower numbers than now. But the numbers
9 have fallen off but they're still pretty high compared to
10 historically. But that's where this regulation came from.

11
12 I do have -- you know, if there is very
13 little Federal land coming up to the river, I don't see how
14 this will benefit subsistence users so I can't support this
15 proposal at this time. I would support it, definitely, if
16 the State of Alaska amends the half-mile corridor.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any
19 further comments? Discussion. I really want to pass it
20 but our people being what they are, I think they will
21 harvest where they can harvest and if they are in need they
22 will -- I think that -- but I still want to support it but
23 I'm just wavering at this time. Any further discussion?
24 Benedict stated firmly why he is against this proposal.
25 And Jack. Any further discussion? I know where we're
26 going with this but I think I'll just have to vote this
27 down because Benedict asked to vote it down and this is his
28 country.

29
30 So all those in favor of the motion signify
31 by saying aye.

32
33 (No aye votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. No more
40 proposals, right?

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, might we put in
43 the record that we suggest the proposer resubmit next year
44 when the State will also be open and that we encourage the
45 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee to submit a similar
46 proposal so that action -- that way there wouldn't be any
47 confusion about lands. If it gets adopted by the State,
48 the Federal Subsistence Board meets after the State, I
49 think, so then it could be acted on next year. But I would

50 like that written down, maybe, that would encourage them

00112

1 locally to resubmit.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you for that.
4 It's going to go in the record saying that we did the
5 opposite way on some other proposals, so I guess we'll
6 never have consistency but we are trying to do the right
7 thing. Any more proposals? Terry.

8

9 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we support what
10 Ray is saying. We would welcome a proposal like this one
11 going to the Board of Game for its meeting next spring.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can the Western Interior
14 just submit it on behalf of these proponents?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, you can do
17 that. I just need to know the cycle due date on that and
18 we can, you know, file it until the due date, if you'd
19 like.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move on
24 behalf of our -- what clientele, we submit that proposal to
25 the State next year as well as have it brought back to us
26 for our consideration in the spring.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion and seconded, any
31 further discussion? If not, all those in favor of the
32 motion, signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Where are
41 we on the agenda?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, during a lot of
44 the deliberations I've been talking to various staff and
45 one that we need to address right away which might be
46 timely now is to have an open discussion on the Koyukuk
47 River Moose Management plan since it's going to be before
48 the Federal Board. Then the next item would be to talk
49 about the Dalton Highway Corridor issue which would be on

50 the back page of your agenda and then we would just go

00113

1 through the agenda as it's written. So maybe now would be
2 a good time to bring up the plan and where you guys stand
3 on it because the Federal Subsistence Board is going to be
4 looking at Staff to share what the Council feels on this,
5 as well as your Chair -- your representative at that
6 meeting.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair will
9 entertain a motion supporting the Koyukuk River Moose
10 Working Group plan, the five year plan.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: I move to support the Koyukuk
13 River Moose Management plan for discussion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

16
17 MR. JONES: I second the motion.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict Jones.
20 Discussion. I know there were a few reservations
21 discussed, so discussion. What we're trying to do here is
22 submit it to the Federal Subsistence Board and integrate it
23 into our program. Discussion.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: As I stated earlier I am in
30 support of this plan. I was very pleased with the planning
31 process and felt that it was very productive to address
32 many of the issues. There are still issues in the plan,
33 some fine-tuning issues, and especially in the northern
34 part of Unit 24, there's need for regulatory changes in the
35 northern portion of the Dalton Highway Corridor under moose
36 harvest and the accesses that come from the Dalton Highway
37 Corridor. And I also have reservations about the numbers
38 of permits that are being issued this year -- which are
39 issued. But as a whole the plan is a good product and I
40 support endorsement of this plan to the Federal Subsistence
41 Board.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you want your
44 reservations recorded some place or just on the record or
45 on the minutes?

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I would like those concerns
48 conveyed to the Federal Subsistence Board, you know, that
49 they're part of the fine-tuning, but that generally the

50 plan is a worthwhile product and the planning process

00114

1 provides for the fine-tuning. So I'm not -- that's why I'm
2 not opposed to the plan.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Further
5 discussion. I think I'm as the same mind as Jack, as we
6 both sat in on this planning process, without votes, and we
7 had to interject to make ourselves heard at times but we
8 were heard. I think that in hindsight, that this is a one
9 time thing because -- for this year and a number of permits
10 for this year, is that, we just wanted to see the plan go
11 through a little further on its own. And my long-term plan
12 is that if moose do get down as drastically as people say
13 they are getting down there, I will institute all possible
14 action out of the Federal system to stop a lot of this
15 moose hunting. But then like Orville so ably stated, that
16 this is the only thing we got right now and it seems to be
17 working. It's just that there might be a little glitch by
18 the number of permits issued this year. But then I would
19 go along with Jack in forwarding this five year plan and
20 try to get it integrated into the Federal system.

21
22 Any further discussion? Pollack Simon.
23 Just for the public's information, we had four people from
24 the Western Interior always involved in the formation of
25 this plan and taking part of this plan and that's why I'd
26 like to commend Micki for supporting the plan because we
27 put in too much time and effort in developing this plan, so
28 now let's go forward with this plan and another member that
29 took part in this planning process is Pollack Simon.
30 Pollack, you have any words?

31
32 MR. SIMON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have to
33 ask you what proposal you're on so I'll be sure -- I mean
34 what item of business were you discussing?

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're just wondering how you
37 stand on that -- whether you still support the Koyukuk
38 River five year plan because you are a member.

39
40 MR. SIMON: I support the plan. I think
41 it's not perfect but it will work. The plan did reduce
42 hunting in the Koyukuk controlled use area so I guess it
43 could work. I support it.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Pollack.
46 Just stay close, we're going into the Dalton Highway
47 Corridor next, so stick around

48
49 MR. SIMON: Yeah, okay, thanks.

00115

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a motion on the
2 floor of forwarding the Koyukuk River Moose Management plan
3 2000/20005 to the Federal Subsistence Board, any more
4 discussion? If not, all those in favor of forwarding in
5 support of this Koyukuk River Moose Management plan to the
6 Federal Subsistence Board signify by saying aye.

7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Ray.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have
17 one comment that the working group might -- I don't know if
18 they're the appropriate channel, but it's been identified
19 that the reason for the decline is in the predation area
20 and I hope that the Federal agencies and the State agencies
21 involved will be looking at that and try to stay on top of
22 it because even if the plan's working if the numbers start
23 falling and we're not getting the calf recruitment there,
24 we're going to have problems every year, so I don't think
25 we should just leave it there. I think we need to try to
26 figure out how to address that, so I hope that group maybe
27 can talk about that or someone appropriately take it up.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Yes, we do
30 not want another McGrath.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: How do we go about this, do
35 you want to just go on record that we do follow-up on the
36 predator control on this area, is that about it?

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yes. I think the Federal
39 agencies could, at least, be doing counts and so on and try
40 to get data to bring before us of what the level of
41 predation is. I don't know if there's mortality studies
42 that would be appropriate in the area, calf mortality, but
43 if something has to be done, based on experience in
44 McGrath, you've got to have the science first or you're not
45 going to go anywhere. So I think it's important that some
46 of that science be done. And I think the Federal agencies,
47 even though they may not -- it may be difficult for them to
48 get into control, would still want the science done to know
49 what's happening to those populations exactly.

00116

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. So the next
2 item on the agenda is the Dalton Highway?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And I
5 think that is going to be a joint effort here, so they'll
6 be coming up to the table. This is also part of your
7 annual report so I'm going to be looking at Jack to see
8 what we need to do with the annual report on this topic.
9 So anyways, my understanding is Tim Krieg will be
10 presenting on this along with maybe Taylor.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: So who is starting this
13 discussion?

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, the
16 substantive report will be by Tim Krieg, I was only going
17 to take a moment to introduce some folks. I'd like to
18 start by saying that the Dalton Highway is clearly an area
19 in which the BLM has some major responsibilities, both for
20 the resources and for protection of the subsistence uses.
21 And as you had asked of Tim, some information in your
22 previous meeting, he's prepared a report and we'll walk
23 through several items with you in a moment's time.

24
25 But I'd also like to note that the State
26 director, Fran Cherry, who serves as the Board member for
27 the BLM has started some discussions within the BLM about
28 strengthening the BLM efforts in the subsistence area and I
29 think part of that shows in the fact that we've got some
30 folks here today to learn the workings of the Regional
31 Council program. So Bob Schnieder, who is the field office
32 manager for the northern field office is here, Bob, if you
33 could stand up so folks will become familiar with you. And
34 then Susan Will, who is the associate field office manager
35 is also with Bob and she'll become a familiar face to you
36 over the months to come as well.

37
38 Tim's actually done the hard work here and
39 he'll be presenting his information at this point. Thank
40 you, very much.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor. Thank
43 you, Tim for waiting all this time. I know we could have
44 brought this up earlier but go ahead and let's go for it.

45
46 MR. KRIEG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
47 Council members, again, my name is Tim Krieg. I work for
48 the BLM in the northern field office as a wildlife
49 biologist. And my principal area of responsibility is the

50 Dalton Highway Management Unit. And although my comments

00117

1 will be brief there are several things, either directly or
2 indirectly related to subsistence resources which have
3 occurred on BLM lands this year that will probably interest
4 you.

5
6 This first overhead that I put up here is
7 the results of a pretty quick survey that I did in February
8 2000, just a little over a year ago. In the middle fork of
9 the Koyukuk River, when the basin itself received a really
10 heavy snowfall and Jack Reakoff pointed out to me at a
11 meeting that that snowfall had forced moose into kind of
12 critical habitats in the basin so I scraped together some
13 funds and borrowed an airplane from Fish and Wildlife
14 Service and I did a quick flight up there. And this maybe
15 go into some information that we're going to be talking
16 about later so if you'd bear with me.

17
18 I began about Twelvemile Mountain and ran
19 to Chandalar Shelf and then back down to Bonanza Creek and
20 recorded locations where I saw, not moose, I didn't have
21 the time or the right aircraft for that but moose tracks
22 and I tried to classify them as to whether there were few,
23 many or whether the ground was carpeted with them. And I
24 realize these are subjective evaluations but I was able to
25 determine the relative value of different locations in the
26 Middle Fork as critical habitat for moose. And I'd like to
27 point out to you that these lines -- let me just stand up
28 for a moment. The yellow lines were places that I
29 subjectively found many moose tracks and then the green
30 lines are where the ground was covered -- carpeted. And I
31 think about this same.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Excuse me, can you wait
34 until we get a mike up there, Tim. Tina, can you hear him
35 with that one attachment there?

36
37 REPORTER: Yes.

38
39 MR. KRIEG: Okay, can you hear me there
40 then?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

43
44 MR. KRIEG: Okay. I just wanted to point
45 out that the upper Koyukuk and the Dietrich Rivers turned
46 out to be really pretty critical moose habitat in that
47 winter when we had the low snow. And then Jack and I made
48 the trip up there this year at almost the same time and
49 found that in this low snow year, not surprisingly, moose

50 were not found in that area in those concentrations.

50 overhead showed obviously that moose can be moving in and

00119

1 out, there's a flux with environmental parameters and other
2 parameters we may not even know about affecting moose
3 densities in that valley. So this is just, of course, one
4 year of data. But our intention is to conduct this survey
5 three years in a row and this is the first year -- the
6 first time, I think it's been done, and so at the end of
7 three years we should have a better picture of how the
8 moose population in that valley is faring. And also in
9 these other trend count areas that are nearby but not
10 contiguous with those units out on the Kanuti.

11
12 Lastly, I would point out to you that at
13 the bottom of this overhead, is a chart that has the
14 results of the 1999 hunter harvest reports for State hunts.
15 The 2000 data is not available. And again, Glenn Stout ran
16 a computer sort in Unit 24 asking for only those
17 submissions where someone accessed their hunting area by
18 vehicle, would be kicked out. And the idea was there,
19 well, the Dalton Highway is the only highway, really, in
20 24, and if you came in on vehicle then you probably hunted
21 off the Dalton Highway. It's kind of a convoluted way of
22 trying to get at some information that's hard to get at.
23 It's the only information that we have. And I think if you
24 look up here you'll see some interesting things. Six of
25 the people that hunted there were residents of the Koyukuk
26 Basin, 63 were other Alaskan residents. Twenty were non-
27 residents, non-resident of the state of Alaska. Moving
28 over to the right, under success, you'll see that 34 people
29 were successful and then further over you can see the size
30 of the moose that were taken and whether they used
31 commercial services or not and then lastly, the method, 19
32 of the people that responded to that column, now, not
33 everybody responds to every column and so you don't get a
34 complete picture so it's pretty sketchy data, but 19 were
35 firearm hunters and 15 hunted with a bow and arrow.

36
37 The only other aspect of this request that
38 the Council had that I tried to get a hold of was that you
39 asked for moose, bear population status report and that is
40 the extent of the moose population report. And I think, at
41 least, of the most recent hunter harvest data that we have
42 on the State side and the only other thing that we have for
43 bears is the Fish and Game management report and it's old
44 data. It's based on research that was done, I think on the
45 north side of the Brooks Range mainly and the estimate was
46 about 33 bears per thousand square miles on the north side
47 of the Brooks Range. And the south side, 22 to 33 bears
48 per thousand square miles. And there's no information, I
49 don't think there's any information on black bears. So

50 that's the sum total of the information that is on bear

00120

1 densities in the Dalton Highway.

2

3 I'd like to make one other point and that
4 is that, again, the Dalton Highway, of course, is a man
5 made legislative appointed geographic area so it cuts
6 across all these basins and rivering systems and so it's
7 pretty hard to view it as just -- in a wildlife sense, as a
8 management unit. But that pretty well concludes the
9 information I was able to dig up for the Council on these
10 questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, what kind of action
13 were we looking for?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: This was -- BLM was
16 responding to the request from the Council to have
17 information on the Corridor and part of it's in your annual
18 report that further attention be addressed to that. So
19 there's no -- action is up to you to determine but there
20 was no programmed in action at this time for it. It was
21 just an update, but I think Jack would like to talk further
22 on it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Jack.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Well, thanks for trying to
27 find these numbers, I can see that they're real hard to
28 find as far as harvest data. But at the lunch break I went
29 over these numbers with Tim and there's some problems with
30 these numbers that I pointed out. It's that these numbers
31 of hunters that are reporting hunting there, that's awfully
32 low compared to what we see there. And the reasons that
33 that would be is that they don't -- they may hunt there and
34 then go somewhere else to hunt and then kill a moose
35 someplace else, so that doesn't really reflect the numbers
36 of hunters that are actually hunting there. It doesn't
37 also reflect the harvest. If they shoot a moose with a bow
38 and wound it and then they don't kill it, they don't have
39 to report that they've wounded a moose, they may go
40 somewhere else and hunt again someplace else. It's very
41 apparent that these numbers are slightly screwed up because
42 only six of the moose were killed people in Wiseman who --
43 or that area that use firearms and -- but it's showing that
44 19 of the hunters are firearm hunters, well, how can that
45 be, are they reporting illegal harvest or are they
46 accessing areas with boats or something. So there are some
47 real big questions on this data.

48

49 The trend count that was done this year, I

50 trap right on top of those trend areas and the moose had

00121

1 been below the mountains in an aggregated -- because of the
2 late spring condition and had stayed just below the
3 mountains and we were just moving up into the area and the
4 survey was done right on top of a large aggregate of moose
5 that was disseminating its way up the river, which Tim and
6 I, a couple weeks ago seen had disseminated all the way up
7 to the Lower Dietrich River, probably another 30 miles
8 above your survey area. What my perception is of the hunt
9 there, that there are lots of hunters that hunt there,
10 whether they report. They hunt moose on the way going to
11 the North Slope and they will hunt moose back -- going up
12 and going back, they may not report that they're hunting
13 moose there but that's what they're doing. They may kill a
14 caribou on the North Slope but unless they kill a moose,
15 actually harvest the moose, take it home with them, they
16 don't report. They may wound a moose on the way home or
17 going up, but they don't report. So there's some glitches
18 in this data.

19
20 So I caution this .8 moose per square mile,
21 that's -- I have trend surveys from the '80s almost in that
22 same area and it was .4, the normal trend counts in that
23 area and I've got that data here. I should have showed you
24 that at lunch.

25
26 But I also was slightly concerned to find
27 that Tim's budget is so extremely low with the BLM with
28 looking at the game populations along the Dalton Highway.
29 There are literally thousands and thousands of tourists a
30 year that go up the Dalton Highway and want to view
31 wildlife and an infrastructure is always slated to be built
32 along the highway by the agency, but I was very surprised
33 to find that such a low budget for monitoring the animals
34 along the highway and especially with literally thousands
35 of hunters also. And so I was concerned at that level of
36 funding of the biologists for, at least, assuring that
37 these animals are being maintained at reasonable levels.
38 It's my opinion, as a person that stays on the ground there
39 and sees a lot of the animals, I have a high concern that
40 the moose population is being harvested at would be maximum
41 sustained yield. I'm very worried that as moose hunters
42 are pressed out of other areas, they'll begin using this
43 resource beyond its carrying capacity.

44
45 So I wrote a resolution to -- I feel that
46 there needs to be an archery wound loss study, this is data
47 that we do not have and cannot be produced by the State of
48 Alaska. The only thing that the State of Alaska has been
49 able to produce for me is data on elk, a large game animal,

50 it's stock hunted down in Montana and Idaho and in those

00122

1 surveys there was one verbal survey they did with archers
2 in Montana, they had 104 percent loss on elk that they'd
3 shot with bows, and in a telemetry study on elk in Idaho,
4 they had lost 200 percent, were found mortally dead. They
5 had retrieved only one-third of the amount of animals that
6 they killed. So I have big concerns with the wound loss
7 and the testing that the State does. But that's a
8 different proposal. And what we need is we need a wound
9 loss study done there. I think that the State of Alaska in
10 conjunction with.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you take into
13 consideration any musket use?

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, there was a
16 proposal to do that, to have a primitive arms hunt with
17 black powder but the Board did not approve that. The only
18 hunting that's legal within the five miles on each side of
19 the Dalton Highway is with bow and arrow.

20
21 So to find what the harvestable surplus is
22 of this moose population in Unit 24.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: How long can we stay in the
25 room?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we can stay
28 here until about 8:00. Next door they'll have a fiddle
29 band at about 8:00 o'clock so we would need to be pretty
30 much out of here by 7:30 unless we have music in the
31 background.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: It doesn't sound like we
34 have much to dance for.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, would you continue and
39 go into your proposal if you're done with your testimony.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I'm trying to find out
42 what the parameters of harvest are. I'm concerned about
43 the moose population. There's heavy hunting to the west,
44 there's air taxis immediately west over in Bettles that
45 drop off a lot of hunters on all the lakes outside the Park
46 and all around that area, so that's a heavily hunted zone
47 to the west. There's very low moose populations
48 immediately east of the Dalton Highway Corridor. The South
49 Fork drainage and the West Fork of the Chandalar and the

50 North Fork of the Chandalar are very poor moose drainage,

00123

1 you can't rely on that for influx of moose into that area.

2

3 So I'm concerned for this Dalton Highway
4 Corridor moose population because that's what I rely on to
5 eat. If I don't get a moose -- one year I didn't get a
6 moose, I had to eat lynx meat and beaver meat and some
7 sheep meat and I got real tired of lynx meat so I haven't
8 eaten one since. And we can't rely on caribou. We're in
9 the Central Brooks Range and caribou sporadically move into
10 that area, so moose for the people that live in the village
11 that I do and myself rely heavily on moose and always have.
12 Moose have been there -- when the first -- I had a very old
13 lady that told me that she walked into that country from
14 the Kobuk and her dad killed a moose there in 1900. When
15 there were no moose in the Interior of Alaska, there was a
16 few moose in the mountains, in the Brooks Range, and people
17 have relied on moose for all those years. It's a very
18 customary animal for subsistence.

19

20 So we need to know what the parameters of
21 harvest on this moose population. We need to know how far
22 these moose move around. So I'm proposing that the Federal
23 government in conjunction with the BLM, the subsistence
24 management program, the National Park Service and the State
25 of Alaska come up with a partnership to do a telemetry
26 study on the moose in that area. To build data on where
27 the moose move to and what kind of mortalities that bow
28 hunters induce on this moose population. So I'm going to --
29 oh, our Chairman left -- who's vice?

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Go ahead, Jack, I'll take
32 over.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to read this
35 resolution from the Western Interior Regional Council
36 requesting a telemetry study. So it goes, whereas, there
37 has been increasing numbers of archery hunters in the
38 Dalton Highway Corridor, other hunters accessing the area,
39 via a licensed highway vehicle and then just outside the
40 Corridor with river boats using firearms; whereas there is
41 data lacking for the amount of wound loss mortality of
42 moose hit with arrows, the limited data available is for
43 elk in Montana and Idaho which shows high mortalities;
44 whereas there's been no data gathered on moose home ranges
45 or movements in the Central Brooks Range; be it resolved;
46 that the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
47 requests that the Federal Subsistence Management Office
48 seek partnerships for a moose telemetry study to document
49 moose movements and wound loss statistics for the Dalton

50 Highway area. Partnerships should be sought with the BLM

00124

1 and National Park Service and the State of Alaska. It is
2 the opinion of the local residents that the sport harvest
3 is at or exceeding sustained yield.

4
5 And I submit that as a.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a motion?

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: That's as a motion, yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

12 MR. DEACON: I second it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry Deacon.
15 Okay, if I understand there is a motion to adopt a
16 resolution introduced by Jack Reakoff, did you have
17 something Benedict.

18
19 MR. JONES: I have a question for Tim.
20 Tim, is there any traffic mortality on the wildlife on the
21 Dalton Highway Corridor?

22
23 MR. KRIEG: Yes, there is. As far as I
24 know there's -- there's no data. I have not seen any data
25 produced on that, on the amount. Jack and I were talking
26 about it at lunch, neither one of us know if DOT keeps
27 records of that. We'll have to do some investigation to
28 see if anyone is keeping records of that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion or
31 questions for Tim? This motion to adopt this resolution
32 was seconded by Henry Deacon and I would like to thank Jack
33 for targeting this area. We've been putting this area off
34 for the last two or three years because of our
35 concentration on our concerns of the Lower Koyukuk. So at
36 this time the Chair will call the question. So all those
37 in favor of the motion passing this resolution, signify by
38 saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Did we have
47 anything else on the Dalton Highway?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: No, not until we bring up the

50 annual report and Jack will weave that into the annual

00125

1 report.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we do it now and just
4 make a motion that this be incorporated into the annual
5 report?

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I make a motion
8 that this resolution be included with the annual report. I
9 also would like to request that the BLM up the funding for
10 the biology management with Dalton Highway Corridor. It
11 would seem that there's very low funding being expended on
12 the very important resources along that highway, not only
13 to the subsistence hunters but also to the viewers of that
14 area.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we really want to bring
17 in viewers into our subsistence.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, was that taken,
22 recorded, that -- do we need a motion or some direction or
23 letter to ask for more funding for Tim Krieg's office?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: You can do that. You did
26 that with law enforcement on the Dalton Highway Corridor
27 and I think you got a favorable action on that. We never
28 got a written response, but, Jack, if you remember that,
29 you requested increased law enforcement flying time and I
30 believe you said the next year it was increased. So, yes,
31 you have, in the past submitted letters requesting funding.
32 I'm just saying you never got an official response to it
33 but budgetary increases did happen.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: So then Western Interior
36 will go on record requesting a letter to address this
37 issue, more finances for Tim Krieg's office. Did we have
38 anything else on this?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, not on
41 this.

42

43 MR. KRIEG: Mr. Chairman, if you would
44 allow me another two minutes I'd tell you two more things
45 about the Dalton Highway that would constitute our agency's
46 report and I'd unload my complete wagon, if that would be
47 all right?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: If that constitutes your

50 agency reports, you got more than two minutes, two and a

00126

1 half minutes.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. KRIEG: Again, you have a hard copy of
6 this and I just wanted to let you know that last fall BLM
7 participated again with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
8 in a herd comp count in the Ray Mountains. At the time we
9 still had 15 functioning radios in that herd, they're due
10 to expire -- they may be all clicked off by now but at
11 least in the last year that they were still active we got
12 in there and did a herd comp count. We found 14 of the
13 collars within about 20 miles of each other in the Tozitna
14 drainage scattered among eight groups. We found another
15 group that didn't have a collar in it and the bottom line
16 here is we counted about 1,730 animals in these nine
17 groups. That was an increase over the last count. I think
18 it was in 1996 when about 1,400 were counted.
19 Incidentally, there were about 19 calves per 100 cows and
20 the other interesting part to that that I thought was
21 interesting was that the 15 radio collars had been on for
22 five years and there had been no mortalities after the
23 first year.

24

25 Again, we hope to continue to do this work
26 annually if the funds are available.

27

28 You have one more little -- on the back
29 side of one of those handouts that I gave you, you also
30 have some information on visitation on the Dalton Highway
31 that I thought you might find interesting. This first one
32 you don't have but it shows the visitor use at the Coldfoot
33 Visitor Center and I'm sure the Council is aware that we're
34 in the planning stages of building a new visitor center
35 there. It shows kind of a static visitation here from '97
36 through 2000 but through -- if you look at the paper
37 handout that I gave you, you'll notice that the visitation
38 at the Yukon crossing is still -- it's still going up.
39 Related to these trends, BLM plans to replace several
40 outhouses this summer at existing facilities south of
41 Atigun Pass and although it's out of the area that you're
42 concerned with, I thought you might like to know that we're
43 planning to wait sides in the Atigun Valley.

44

45 And that concludes my report. If there are
46 any other questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just, you know, if you put up
49 any buildings anywhere, even an outhouse you increase

50 visitation, was that taken into consideration?

00127

1 MR. KRIEG: I think the way I would answer
2 that is that the data we have shows that the visitation is
3 already happening, you know, and the chart is going this
4 way and that in conjunction -- these wait sides are in
5 conjunction with DOT and they're trying to provide
6 facilities for the increased use of the Dalton Highway that
7 is already occurring plus with the paving of the road it's
8 anticipated that it might continue to go up.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, as soon as the paving
11 is done it will go way up. Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, regarding the
14 tourism infrastructure, I would like the BLM to consult
15 more with the local residents regarding some of this
16 infrastructure. Last summer there was an outhouse and a
17 wait site put in at Grayling Lake without consultation of
18 the local people at all, and the Grayling Lake is one of
19 the only areas in the foothills of the Brooks Range, one of
20 maybe three or four lakes along the road where bull moose
21 will come and eat water plans and it's a real large lake.
22 And there will be -- there was like three or four bulls in
23 that lake. After the construction of that outhouse it
24 became an instant campground. I went by there, there's
25 people throwing frisbees, yelling and screaming and they
26 drove all the moose out of the lake. I've consulted -- if
27 the local people would have been consulted it would have
28 been apparent or it would have been more -- it would have
29 been better to have that outhouse -- maybe an outhouse was
30 warranted there, but just the configuration of the parking
31 lot -- or the dynamics of the parking lot could have been
32 made to where it wasn't -- didn't actually provide for RV
33 camping and multiple use stays and all the people running
34 around in the woods there and fishing. That basically
35 drove all the moose out of the lake and it reduced the
36 opportunity for viewers and also -- I went down there
37 looking around at the beginning of moose season and there
38 wasn't a moose in the country there. So I mean this kind
39 of -- if there is infrastructures to be built, I would like
40 to see consultation with local people, the Marion Creek
41 campground was the same situation. A campground was built
42 right in the middle of a bear trail right next to a swamp
43 so there's lots of mosquitos and the bears were coming into
44 camp there. It was also far north of Coldfoot, which I
45 testified when they were making the development and all,
46 that I would like to see all the infrastructure maintained
47 at Coldfoot. I would rather see infrastructures clumped
48 than just spread out and have strip development.

49

So in the future, you know, for subsistence

00128

1 resource impacts, I would like consultation on the BLM on
2 some of these issues. The RAMP plan, the Recreational Area
3 Management Plan was never reviewed by the communities in
4 the affected area.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you put it in the form
11 of a motion that the Western Interior would be involved --
12 or informed by BLM on these decisions before they actually
13 build?

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, whereas the --
16 somebody's going to have to record if I'm just going
17 to.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think just a motion to
20 have Western Interior involved.

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. I make a motion that
23 the Bureau of Land Management, in the future infrastructure
24 development within the Dalton Highway Corridor, consult
25 with the Western Interior Council on impacts to subsistence
26 resources.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

29
30 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion? If
33 not, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying
34 aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Do we have
43 anything else on the Dalton Highway?

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, before we forget we
48 do have the minutes of the Nulato meeting, Benedict did you
49 ever find what you wanted to?

00129

1 (Pause)

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Salena, the Court Recorder
6 looked through the transcript from before and we couldn't
7 find anything that was deferred action by this Council, I
8 believe that's what she meant. Okay. But anyway, in the
9 minutes, I couldn't find any deferred action from the last
10 meeting.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, what do we have on
13 this now?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you deferred approving
16 the minutes until I could get you the even and the odd
17 pages before you so you have all the pages in front of you,
18 I hope, of your minutes. So you can defer to the next
19 meeting to approve them but it would be a lot easier to
20 approve them now unless there is a question still by
21 Benedict.

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd rather approve them
23 right now and correct them later if we have to correct
24 them, correct them to our benefit.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to reintroduce a
29 motion to approve?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I don't believe there ever
32 was a motion for the minutes because I was embarrassed to
33 be only on the odd side of the pages.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a
36 motion to approve the minutes of the -- what's the date?

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Nulato meeting.

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Nulato meeting.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second?

43
44 MR. JONES: Second.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: I second that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict and
49 third by Jack. Do we need a couple minutes to go through

50 them?

00130

1 (Pause)

2
3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Question.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
6 I think that after we put it off this morning, quite a few
7 of us have gone through and looked it over, so all those in
8 favor of approving the Nulato minutes, October 4, 5 Nulato
9 minutes, signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Next item
18 on the agenda, Vince?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next item
21 on the agenda would be reports from the Chair or from the
22 Council members so that's an elective on your part.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: That's basically a time that
27 if there's some kind of reporting on fishing -- excuse me,
28 local advisory committee actions or tribal actions, village
29 council actions, et cetera, so that's up to you and then
30 beyond that, the next would be a review of the annual
31 report, and then we would be into agency reports.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I think
34 I'd like to -- I think we've more than covered VI, more
35 than enough, we've reiterated it and restated and rehashed
36 all the advisory committee meetings that we've had. So
37 annual report.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the annual
40 report is under Tab E. There were three topics that you
41 talked about and I'm just going to slow down here because
42 I'm going to need Jack involved in this but we'll deal with
43 the other two topics first. The first topic is dealing
44 with wound loss within the Dalton Highway Corridor and then
45 the second topic was basically thanking the Staff for the
46 guiding, outfitter, transporter operations in the region
47 and that should continue. So that was in response, I
48 think, to us asking did you want that to continue, this is
49 now added in your annual report that you do want it

50 continued. And then there was concern about growing

00131

1 fishery -- sportfishery activities and criminal trespass.
2 There I tried to capture that basically you're still
3 waiting to hear about how the Lacey Act might be utilized
4 with criminal trespassing. And that you would like the
5 Board to direct the Fish and Wildlife Service and the
6 Bureau of Land Management to more closely monitor these
7 uses instead of suggesting.

8
9 And with that, we can go topic by topic,
10 but I did need to see if the recent action on the
11 resolution on the Dalton Highway is incorporated within
12 this, the first topic, wound loss within the Dalton Highway
13 Corridor.

14
15 It's under Tab E and we're always a year
16 behind on the annual report so this is actually the 2000
17 annual report.

18
19 MR. COLLINS: So this hasn't been submitted
20 yet?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: No, it has not. The process
23 on that is once we get concurrence or approval by the
24 Council here, then it's submitted and then the Board
25 generally takes them up in early summer and then they take
26 action or respond to them and that's usually done by your
27 fall meeting, that there's official Board response. So
28 obviously we don't have another meeting before fall so it's
29 easier if we can get approval by the Council at this time
30 so we can put it into the system.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what we're looking at
33 right now, it will be totally changed by the time it comes
34 back up?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: No, I hope not. What I'm --
37 no, the options before you on the annual report is to look
38 at the one that's here and say this is fine and then go
39 forward with it. The other option is is that you would
40 agree to this in concept and then for instance if the
41 wording on the Dalton Highway does not incorporate Jack's
42 concern that you would empower the Chair with the
43 representative of the area to assist with the final wording
44 of that and then we would put that together and then submit
45 it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we make it even
48 simpler and just attach the resolution we passed?

49

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you could. I just --

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1 Jack is a real good writer and I'm just concerned I'm not
2 capturing what he wants in these paragraphs. So if he's
3 satisfied with it, yes, the resolution would be attached no
4 matter what, you've already directed that. I just don't
5 know of these paragraphs or paragraph counter anything
6 that's in there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, your feelings.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: No, I think that this acts as
11 a preamble to this resolution and this wording is
12 appropriate.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, since this is just
17 going out now and it's dated March 31st, I think we should
18 add the item we discussed about the formation of this work
19 group -- working group for the Innoko area, that that has
20 high priority, and we should have a section encouraging
21 that that be started right away, along similar lines to the
22 Koyukuk one, and then incorporating the fisheries issues as
23 well as fish and game, I guess.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, that was a
26 good catch, I had forgotten about it. Did you have all the
27 material you need on that to incorporate it then?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And the way we've done
30 it in the past is I'm going to have to write that up and
31 then I'll share it with the Chair and if you have concerns
32 then you can consult with your members but I understand
33 that you wanted the GASH planning process added to this and
34 that it be placed as a high priority and then I'll try to
35 give, very briefly, in the annual report your long history
36 in requesting that so that the Board is aware this is, you
37 know, not just something that just came up. Not that
38 there's new Board members but it just is a tracking
39 mechanism. So I'll draft it up and get it by the Chair,
40 and then if the Council agrees then the Chair can approve
41 it or authorize or call up a member to see if needs to
42 change.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: What about the issue of
45 requesting predation studies in the Koyukuk and so on,
46 urging agencies to consider that in their actions, to do
47 the science on what's happening there, since it's been
48 identified as potentially one of the real causes for the
49 decline? I don't know, is that appropriate, I'm just

50 asking.

00133

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it would be more
2 than appropriate because we did take action trying to
3 indoctrinate the Koyukuk Moose Management five year plan
4 into our Federal system. Is that going to be in the annual
5 report, too, the adoption of the five year moose management
6 plan?
7

8 MR. MATHEWS: No, I wasn't looking at that.
9 I was looking that as a separate thing that would be
10 carried forth, that you endorse the plan with those items
11 that Jack wanted noted. I wasn't -- let me stop here a
12 second. No, it would not be wise to have it in the annual
13 report because the Board's going to be looking at this in
14 May, the actions of the plan. They won't look at the
15 annual report until June -- yeah, June, so it would be a
16 hollow exercise to have it in the annual report, the
17 approval of the plan.
18

19 MR. COLLINS: Okay.
20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Now, I'm not losing track
22 that Ray is also asking for additional studies on other
23 components of the ecosystem there. Yes, that can be put
24 into the annual report. I was just hoping that -- and I
25 know Randy left and I'm not singling him out it's just that
26 I haven't closely watched that working group, if that's
27 part of their request, too, to have looking at all
28 populations and maybe Benedict or Jack or Ron can remember
29 that, I don't know.
30

31 (Pause)
32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll put it in the
34 annual report that attention be addressed in the Koyukuk
35 River on the predator populations and their impact on the
36 moose population and the resulting impact on the
37 subsistence use.
38

39 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.
40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that satisfactory, Ray?
42

43 MR. COLLINS: (Nods affirmatively)
44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's fine.
46

47 MR. COLLINS: I was just thinking for the
48 Federal budgets, they've already got their budgets for this
49 year, they're probably not going to do it out of this
year's budget so they have to be thinking of it to put it

50 in next year, so if we put it in the report we're at least

00134

1 getting them to think about considering some of those kinds
2 of studies in their next fiscal year.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: I think we can put in there
7 on the timing -- I'm just -- I'm not trying to take up
8 time, I just -- it's just that the Board has never -- well,
9 I don't know, let's put it in and see if the Board responds
10 to it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else on the annual
13 report?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: So then by consensus, the
16 report that's in front of you under Tab E with the noted
17 additions and the editing process that we've used over the
18 years it looks like the annual report is approved subject
19 to those contingents.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: How many additions did you
22 make, do you have them offhand?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: If I got it right, you only
25 added two, GASH area, top priority and encourage studies of
26 the other components of the moose situation on the Koyukuk.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that will take care
29 of all of our priorities.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I assume that's done
32 and the record should reflect it's done by consensus that
33 we're there with the annual report approval with those
34 contingents.

35
36 The next thing will be agency reports and,
37 you know, due to planning and that I think we're going to
38 have to work harder or I will have to work harder, too, to
39 make sure these agendas incorporate as much as possible,
40 agency reports. And I think at different times I'll have
41 to consult with the Chair on how best to do this, but I
42 don't think the Council wants to send a message to the
43 agencies that they don't want to hear these reports. But
44 what's happening here is due to all the topics that we need
45 to cover in these meetings, doesn't allow a lot of time for
46 agency reports.

47
48 So with that, I think you're into the
49 agency report section of your agenda and I can help you

50 through that which won't take too long, I think.

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't make this funny
4 because it is sad that you need to take actions on things
5 but you don't have the time to hear the reports and I think
6 we need to work together to improve that process.

7

8 Under agency reports, the first one is
9 Native corporations, I won't go down the list but there may
10 be some Native corporations that want to make a
11 presentation at this time.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: As I look at our spectator
14 section there, I don't see any, so skip all those.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Alaska Department of
19 Fish and Game, again, they've had staff here throughout the
20 time through some difficult times, I don't know if they
21 have any reports to present at this time. I don't see any.

22

23 Bureau of Land Management, through your
24 direction and support already covered their reports unless
25 there's -- nope, not seeing any.

26

27 Next, is Fish and Wildlife Service. I
28 believe there are some reports there to present. They were
29 presented yesterday in joint session so I'll stop here to
30 see if they have any additional reports. What I meant is
31 they wanted to report about the white-fronted geese
32 situation and that was covered in the joint meeting
33 yesterday.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, could you draft a
36 letter for me to sign just thanking the Department, they
37 were very helpful today?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And I assume that would
40 also mean to copy Frank Rue and -- would that include the
41 Commissioner?

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's who we would
44 direct it because I was really kind of pissed off when I
45 saw some of the funding cuts in the newspaper and I was
46 wondering if they would be here and I was wondering if we
47 would take any kind of action whatsoever, so I would just
48 like a letter out thanking these people because we could
49 have done a lot and never gotten anywhere without these

50 people.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll
2 assist you with writing that and we'll incorporate that
3 it's valuable, their input.

4
5 Where was I, Fish and Wildlife Service?

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fish and Wildlife, yeah.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we work in a multi-
10 faceted agency and the contaminants section is doing a
11 study and they've been waiting here to present it but due
12 to other scheduling conflicts they weren't able to present
13 it. They have an excellent handout on it that will provide
14 background information on it. I won't attempt to cover it
15 but I know it's something you've discussed several times
16 and maybe in the future, as this study progresses, we can
17 invite them back so they can present the results from this
18 contaminant study. I believe it's across the Yukon
19 drainage.

20
21 MR. SHERROD: There's some extras here if
22 anyone wants to take some back to pass around the village.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: And he has been here, that
25 would be Keith Mueller, several times, and our schedule and
26 timing just didn't allow presentation, but that's a study
27 that I think you'll be quite interested in finding out what
28 they find out from it.

29
30 Again, is there any other -- I don't think
31 there's any other reports from Fish and Wildlife Service.
32 Yes, there is, there's two of them.

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we do have Kanuti and
34 who else do we have?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, with the Kanuti one, I
37 mailed you earlier, their written report and somehow or
38 another it did not get in your book so if you do need
39 copies of the written report on the Kanuti and as I've done
40 at many of the meetings, the Kanuti Refuge as well as other
41 Refuges have followed your request to have written reports
42 here so it helps, all that they do and provide written
43 reports.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: First off, I'd like to again
46 apologize to Kanuti. It seems like we're always putting
47 you last but thank you for your perseverance and you have
48 the floor.

49

MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

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1 Council. Did everyone get a copy of that, that was mailed
2 out because it's all there in front of you, you can read
3 it, I guess, and get back to us if you have any questions,
4 if we want to keep this short. But we do want to introduce
5 you to our new manager, Bob Schulz, is the new manager of
6 Kanuti Refuge and he started in mid-July.

7
8 MR. SCHULZ: Yes, just a little background.
9 I'm the new Refuge manager for Kanuti National Wildlife
10 Refuge. For the last 10 years I've been the deputy Refuge
11 manager down in Tetlin. There, I was very active in
12 overseeing the subsistence program on the Tetlin Refuge
13 there. I've dealt with a lot of the same issues that you
14 folks have with the Eastern Interior where we worked with
15 C&T's for the upper Tanana Valley there. We worked with
16 fish issues there on the whitefish populations. Also I
17 worked with the folks down there on the user conflicts down
18 there, basically we have about 150,000 people coming up the
19 Alaska highway and go by the Refuge so there were a lot of
20 conflicts between the visitation and the subsistence users
21 and also the State regulations there.

22
23 I look forward to getting to know each one
24 of your folks and work with you. Right now I'm relying
25 real heavily on my staff because it's very capable and if
26 you have any questions on this report, don't hesitate to
27 bring them forward and we'll try to get you the best
28 answers we can.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Kanuti?

33
34 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Is there anything
35 specifically that you'd like us to address that's on the
36 report? I know Greg put together, as requested last time,
37 the harvest information, within and adjacent to the Kanuti
38 Refuge. That's included in the handout. There's stuff on
39 moose, including our new trend surveys. A challenge grant
40 that we currently have in draft status. It's all in the
41 report but if there's anything that you'd like us to
42 address now while you have us here, let us know.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. This Henshaw
47 bull/cow ration is kind of skewered off and are you going
48 to reevaluate why -- is your trend area just landing on top
49 of a bull aggregating area or are you going to reevaluate

50 how to get a little different composition, I mean it

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1 shouldn't be like that.

2

3 MS. SAPERSTEIN: In the past we were doing
4 the trend surveys, between '83 and '92, the Kanuti Canyon
5 usually had over a hundred bulls per hundred cows. So
6 there has been a history in that general area of a high
7 bull to cow ratio. I think part of that's due to the bulls
8 get up in the hills and are fairly inaccessible. This is
9 just a one -- first year that we've started doing this
10 again. Like I said before, three to four years before we
11 really start getting a feel for what's going on. This area
12 is in a burn, it burned in '91. They did trend surveys
13 fairly consistently in that area between '87 and '92 so
14 it's going to be interesting to see what happens here as
15 the burn progresses.

16

17 The Kanuti Canyon, on the other hand is in
18 a 1972 burn, it's pretty productive right now. So I don't
19 know what the answer is, maybe the bulls congregate there,
20 the cows don't because of lack of forage, I think that's
21 something that remains to be seen but it's certainly
22 something we'll keep an eye on. I'm a little reluctant to
23 make any real strong statements about this on one years
24 worth of data. You know, you can kind of roughly compare
25 it to previous years but the trend surveys didn't overlap
26 directly and then that fire came along in 1991.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: I've seen that, you know, up
29 where I'm at, there's a creek where all the bulls -- come
30 down to that creek there and they all aggregate in one
31 place and the cows are up higher in the timber and just
32 kind of hanging out with their calves and it's a post-rut
33 kind of a deal and it may be just the visibility of those
34 moose, you know, those bulls are more visible or something.
35 But there's these aggregating places, so you know, it's
36 kind of -- I don't consider -- and after winter sets on and
37 the moose kind of really getting together and falling down
38 on the river valleys, that ratio changes -- the
39 perceptible ratio changes down to more realistic numbers,
40 they're not even anything like these numbers, you know, it
41 could be 20 bulls per hundred cows, you know. So I'm not
42 sure how to alleviate that but I would kind of suggest to
43 try to maybe expand the area to find more where the cows
44 are at, because I'm sure it's a separating effect, you
45 know.

46

47 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yeah, that's a problem
48 with these trend areas because we can't do the censuses
49 every year. We have to stick to smaller areas so you are

50 going to get artifacts in the data, because it's a fairly

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1 small area. The census that was done in 1999 would better
2 reflect the bull/cow ratio, Refugewide, and I just don't
3 have that here right now, I can get that to you. It's been
4 in past reports.

5
6 And again, like we were talking, I think
7 this morning, there is definitely some movements going on
8 in the Refuge and out of the Refuge and I'd like to address
9 that some how at some point, either with collars or --
10 radio collars or colored neck collars or something; I'd
11 like to consider in the future, maybe that will help get at
12 some of that as well.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that would be very
15 beneficial information to know how many moose are moving in
16 and out of the Refuge, you know, because they would
17 immediately get into fairly heavily hunted areas if they
18 were dispersing into the State lands to the north. so that
19 would be very beneficial information all right. Generally,
20 I think you guys are doing a lot of good work out on the
21 Kanuti and it looks like you're keeping your hand on the
22 pulse of several different resources there and appreciate
23 your work.

24
25 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. For your
28 information also, is that, depending on water level,
29 Henshaw Creek is almost always inaccessible when it's
30 falltime and low water, and that's where quite a few of
31 those bulls probably congregate even before the rut.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's just almost
36 inaccessible. Just a brief report on the outside hunters
37 in Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

38
39 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. As it's
40 mentioned in the write up, that's something at the meeting
41 in Nulato that you requested information on the outside
42 hunting on Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. What I did was
43 I requested the information from the green harvest reports
44 from Glenn Stout out of the Galena office. And on the
45 table on the top of Page 4 that first line is the total
46 number reported moose from the green harvest tags and then
47 we also have the -- the second line is the number of
48 reported harvests from -- and the Kanuti Refuge does not
49 have an active guide on the Refuge so these reports are all

50 from air taxi transporters. And over the years there's

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1 only been a permit for either one or two air taxi
2 transporters on the Refuge each year. And for -- you could
3 see in '98, '99, 2000 there wasn't any harvest and this
4 last year there was one harvest and that was the incident
5 that Barry had mentioned earlier today, the four moose that
6 were harvested upstream from Kanuti Lake. And then the
7 bottom line is the information from Dave Andersen's harvest
8 information for the Koyukuk River communities and this is
9 taking the totals from Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles and
10 Evansville. And below the table it's broken down each year
11 to show you like for '88/89 [sic] again for the State
12 harvest reports, there were 12 harvest reports returned and
13 then four of them were successful in '99/2000 there were 23
14 reports returned and there were 14 successful hunters.

15
16 Overall, to summarize it, the Refuge feels
17 that the hunting pressure within or immediately adjacent to
18 the Refuge is pretty limited. As I mentioned there's no
19 permitted big game guide on Kanuti Refuge, and the majority
20 of the Refuge lands are within the Kanuti controlled use
21 area.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How many special use
24 permits can you -- or do you issue to utilize the Kanuti
25 Wildlife Refuge?

26
27 MR. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chair, my name is Barry
28 Whitehill. Last year there was two air taxis that were
29 permitted. One only kind of in error, after they had
30 dropped off a fisherman out onto the Refuge area, and in
31 talking with them and to kind of cover for that activity we
32 issued a permit. Primarily, there's only been one air taxi
33 that's been operating to any degree. And I might want to
34 add to a comment that Greg just made about currently
35 there's no hunting guide on Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
36 area, there is a vacant area and we've been approached by
37 an individual that would like to see about getting a permit
38 to operate as a guide on the Refuge. Currently, he does
39 not have the State authorization to be in Unit 24 and I
40 know he has talked about getting that credential and
41 approaching us again when he does, so that may be coming up
42 as well.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you keep us closely
45 informed on that and give us the name, too, please?

46
47 MR. WHITEHILL: Yes. If he continues with
48 that potential operation. What we will probably do at this
49 point is only issue on a year basis for the guide activity

50 and then at which time all the Refuge areas will be offered

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1 up again, I think it's on a five year cycle and when that
2 is offered up again, the five years, then we will reoffer
3 the Kanuti area to anybody that would come and we would
4 basically judge all the perspectives and select a guide
5 that way.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you keep us really
8 closely informed on that because I know there hasn't been
9 too much guiding activity out there but when you talk about
10 five permits, I'd like to know who, where and why at any
11 time?

12
13 MR. WHITEHILL: Okay, we will certainly do
14 that.

15
16 MR. SCHULZ: Mr. Chairman, there's only
17 going to be one guide out there, that would be issued for a
18 five year period. There won't be five guide permits issued
19 on the Kanuti Refuge, there will only be one permit but it
20 will be a for a five year period.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that
23 clarification, the number threw me for a minute. Any
24 further questions? Jack.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Off hand, what do you think
27 the moose harvest is on the Kanuti Refuge, with your total
28 population, that should be what -- what kind of percentage,
29 generally?

30
31 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I'd have to work up the
32 numbers on that, I haven't done it but I will and get back
33 to you.

34
35 MR. WHITEHILL: I don't know about
36 percentage of harvest but just being out here in the field
37 during the season and contacting hunters in the field and
38 as well as the air taxi operation goes, you know, this has
39 been about the most maximum harvest I've seen in my time
40 there at Kanuti from air taxi operations for sporthunting.
41 You know, I think the bulk of it comes off that -- just on
42 the edge of the Refuge, up off the Southfork and maybe a
43 little bit up Fish Creek, but other than that, it's pretty
44 minimal from a sport harvest standpoint.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: What I'm referring to, you
49 know, is the subsistence and the sport harvest combination

50 to -- you know, right in that northern unit we talked about

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1 in the plan, three to five percent harvest range and that's
2 -- I mean just to compare -- I mean just to track what that
3 harvest -- if it's approaching that.

4
5 MR. WHITEHILL: Okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
8 Kanuti? Benedict.

9
10 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd like to ask the
11 Department, did you guys ever -- on this mortality on the
12 moose collaring, you have only two survive out of the 12,
13 you know, what's causing -- is there any other place in the
14 state that you radio collar and if there are any survivors,
15 like Fortymile area?

16
17 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yeah, I just want to
18 stress that the mortality wasn't due to the collar and one
19 died of old age, some were disbursed, some were being
20 killed by other wolves. As for wolves with collars in
21 other parts of the state, I think Fortymile still has some
22 collared, I don't really know what's going on, you know,
23 through the state or other Refuges. But this wasn't -- and
24 maybe that's not clear, if that's what the question was, it
25 wasn't mortality due to the collaring itself. The wolves
26 were up and running, you know, for awhile. Some left the
27 area, we just never -- never picked them up again. Like I
28 said, one died of old age. Any that we found -- we picked
29 up any mortalities that we found and sent them in to be
30 necropsied with the veterinarian. And they were all -- one
31 looked like it had been injured, I believe, kicked maybe,
32 and then.....

33
34 MR. WHITEHILL: Mike Johnson got one and we
35 compensated him for the hide loss for the collar too.

36
37 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Oh, yeah, someone trapped
38 one and the collar rubs away at the fur so the ruff isn't
39 as good and we apparently compensated the trapper for the
40 loss of the ruff. Does that answer your question?

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

43 MR. REAKOFF: Did the Department notify you
44 that they were releasing anymore Fortymile wolves up this
45 way this year? I haven't heard anything more about that.
46 Last year they were letting wolves go.

47
48 MR. SCHULZ: I think that project is
49 overwith for the relocation on the sub-adults there. I

50 think that was a four or five year project and I think it's

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1 come to a close where the upper -- you know, the Fortymile
2 Caribou Management plan has gone into a harvest plan now so
3 it's gone to like Step 2. They're still monitoring them
4 and there was a couple packs that -- because of
5 mortalities, natural mortalities or loss of one of the
6 adult pair there, they went back in and captured the other
7 one and sterilized it and put a collar on it. But I think
8 the relocation is done with.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that constitute the
11 Kanuti agency report or do you have more?

12
13 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I think that's it. I'll
14 leave some more copies with Vince. I think the copy you
15 got at the table, the trend survey table wasn't formatted
16 correctly and I'll leave this with him and I'll also leave
17 you with some copies of something that Bob came up with as
18 a way of recording local knowledge as well as anything that
19 we come across that refers to the area in books or anywhere
20 else that we see ourselves. It's got a map on one side
21 and an area to record information on the other. So I'll
22 leave that with you, Ron, if you want to bring some back
23 home with you. We've got some out in Allakaket.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Lisa. I
26 appreciate it. And again, I would like to commend the
27 Kanuti staff for utilizing and visiting the people of
28 Allakaket. I think people are well familiar with who you
29 are and ready to coordinate and cooperate and work with you
30 people rather than buck you people now at this stage. So
31 again, thank you all. Thank you for you report.

32
33 MR. SCHULZ: Thank you.

34
35 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

36
37 MR. WHITEHILL: Thank you.

38
39 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there may be
44 some other Refuge reports but I don't know if there's any
45 others. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any other Refuge
48 that wants to give a report? Innoko.

49

MR. SHAFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if you'd

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1 like I could give you a quick synopsis of the hunter
2 harvest report for the guide, outfitters and air taxis on
3 Innoko, in the interest of time, it's up to you?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead. Thank you
6 for staying behind until now, too.

7
8 MR. SHAFF: This year we had 105 hunters
9 were brought in by seven transporters, of which five were
10 air and two were boat. We had three guide outfitters
11 working the Refuge, however only one of them actually
12 brought clients in this year. So that's a total of 105
13 hunters. There was 38 moose taken, two wolves and one
14 black bear taken. The bulk of the moose were taken from
15 the main stem of the Innoko River. There was four moose
16 taken from the Dishna and several -- about eight taken from
17 the Iditarod and then the remaining were taken from some of
18 the small creeks mainly flowing into the Innoko.

19
20 Real quick, that's what was taken this
21 year. I've estimated, there was another 40 or so hunters
22 that we checked that came in, that were not brought in by
23 guides, outfitters or air taxis, they either flew in by
24 private airplane or boated in by private boat from down
25 river, I'm estimating another 18 moose were taken there by
26 those folks. That's more of an estimate. The other
27 information is from reports that we got from the guide,
28 outfitters.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those numbers, are they
31 within the sustainable yield of projections?

32
33 MR. SHAFF: Yes, that's in an area that's
34 -- I don't have the numbers right before me for a survey
35 that we did, it's consistent with what was observed last
36 year, two years ago. The numbers that are in the book that
37 the State put out, on Page 69 of the book, includes both
38 portions of the -- the lower portions of the Refuge and the
39 other areas down south of the Refuge, the numbers would be
40 consistent from what we have. I apologize for not having
41 those numbers with me.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
44 Innoko?

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Any enforcement issues that
47 you dealt with this fall that we should know about?

48
49 MR. SHAFF: We had undersized moose taken

50 that was reported. The air taxi folks brought it out and

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1 reported it upon return and we actually turned it over to
2 the State to deal with, the State enforcement trooper in
3 McGrath. We did have a fairly intense enforcement effort
4 ourselves. We was out there on pretty much any good days
5 that we could actually fly, we were out in the field
6 checking hunters and checking.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for
9 Innoko? Henry.

10

11 MR. DEACON: How do you get your data on
12 how many moose have been killed, is that through the State
13 ticket?

14

15 MR. SHAFF: I'm sorry, could you.....

16

17 MR. DEACON: The State ticket, you know, if
18 you kill a moose you send the ticket back out?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: His question is how do you
21 compile your numbers on moose harvested?

22

23 MR. SHAFF: This was from what was reported
24 by the guide, outfitters and the air taxis, they're
25 required when they get their special use permit they're
26 required to turn in a report on how many hunters they
27 brought in, their success rate and their days in the field
28 and I've taken that from them. I don't have an exact
29 record because when we're out doing enforcement, we do
30 record who brought them in and it follows true to what we
31 saw.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: This wouldn't affect the
38 hunting down in your area by boat, I don't think, Henry,
39 this would be mostly the upper river; isn't that right?

40

41 MR. SHAFF: Yes. Most of this hunting
42 takes place well above the existing Paradise controlled use
43 area. Most of the hunters that are brought in by either
44 the guide, outfitters or the air taxis drop off right at
45 the very upper end of the Innoko River, the Northfork and
46 the Innoko River where it enters the Refuge not far from
47 Tokotna and Ophir and they hunt from there, probably, oh,
48 40, 50 -- down to about 40 to 50 miles from that end of the
49 Refuge, river miles down stream.

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1 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, yeah, I know
2 there's more hunters than that in our area, you know,
3 there's way more than that. So you have to notify the
4 State, see how many harvest tickets they get from the
5 villages -- from Bethel.

6
7 MR. SHAFF: Yes, I didn't have the -- I
8 don't have the information of all the hunters, this is what
9 was taken in by the commercial air taxi and the guide,
10 outfitters. I don't have what was taken in -- sport
11 hunters that were brought in from down river by boat.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If
14 not, I'd really like to thank you for remaining and staying
15 behind and making your report brief.

16
17 MR. SHAFF: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I think we have one more
22 Fish and Wildlife Service report that would be the handouts
23 that you just got. The Staff has been rotating back and
24 forth to maintain schedules so there is Staff here to talk
25 about the contaminant study that the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service is looking at. So you have that colored handout
27 that George passed out just a minute or two ago.

28
29 MS. MATZ: Hi, my name is Angela Matz, I'm
30 an environmental contaminants biologist for the Fish and
31 Wildlife Service. My name and the name of the guy that's
32 doing this study with me, Keith Mueller, we both work out
33 of Fairbanks, that's on the back of that information sheet
34 and mostly what we wanted to do today is let you know that
35 we're planning this study. There's a lot of information on
36 that fact sheet and we really want to get the word out to
37 this group, to anybody who is interested in this study that
38 we're going to do, it's on contaminants in salmon. We have
39 a limited amount of money this year so we're not going to
40 be able to sample in nearly as many places as people would
41 like us to. Places we have chosen are two sites on the
42 Yukon River and one on the Kuskokwim River, down near
43 Bethel. We're going to be looking at both king and chum
44 salmon. We're interested in salmon from the -- obviously
45 from the fish population health standpoint and contaminants
46 and obviously subsistence users are interested, very
47 interested in contaminants in their foods.

48
49 So I'd be happy to answer any further

50 questions about that that you might have. But again,

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1 mostly what we want to do is let you know that we are
2 planning this study for this summer. A lot of what we'd
3 like to do with it is inform people that we're doing this
4 and let people know the results. A big part of this, too,
5 which is a little different from other contaminant studies
6 that the Fish and Wildlife Service has done in the past is
7 that we're going to take the data specifically and give it
8 to public health agencies so that they can provide
9 information from a public health standpoint for people who
10 use these fish for subsistence purposes.

11
12 And so I'd like to keep it brief, and with
13 that I'll answer any questions that you have but also I
14 want to emphasize that you can feel free to contact either
15 Keith or myself and pass our names around so that anybody
16 who's interested can contact us about this study.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, for your report.
19 We sure appreciate it, even at this time of the day. Do we
20 have any questions for Angela? Jack.

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: Where are you going to take
23 the contaminant samples from, the fat or the flesh of the
24 salmon?

25
26 MS. MATZ: We're going to take them from a
27 variety of tissues. The one that -- the tissue that's of
28 interest to subsistence consumers primarily are filets,
29 we're also going to look at livers and kidneys and eggs as
30 well. It's a huge study, a huge amount of data taking
31 different types of -- measuring different types of
32 contaminants as well as biomarkers, measures of effects and
33 that's one of the reasons why we're sampling all those
34 different organs.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?
37 Again, thanks for your brief report, thanks for your
38 brevity and we'll be in contact, I'm pretty sure, because
39 as you noticed all day yesterday and all day today, our
40 interests have been fishing issues. Thank you.

41
42 MS. MATZ: Again, I just want to emphasize
43 that the contact information is on the back of that sheet
44 at the bottom. Thanks.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more
47 agencies Vince?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there may be some from

50 the National Park Service that have some agency reports. I

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1 think Hollis has a report and there may be others.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hollis.

4

5 MR. TWITCHELL: Hello, I'm Hollis Twitchell
6 with Denali National Park. It's been a couple of years
7 since I've had a chance to brief you on Denali issues. In
8 light of the time I will be very brief about that as well.

9

10 I want to first of all start off and let
11 you know that we paid special recognition and tribute to
12 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission at their last
13 meeting, recognizing that the combined membership have over
14 98 years of service on the Commission in terms of the times
15 that they've served. We have three members who have
16 incredible amounts of dedication, Ray Collins has 19 years
17 of service, Florence Collins from Lake Minchumina 19 years,
18 Percy Dyke from Nenana 19 years, Steve Eluska from Talida
19 15 years. So it's a, I think, very unique and very
20 important thing to ourselves as an agency to have that
21 longevity and that input through all these years and
22 they've led us in great and good directions.

23

24 One of them was the SRCs recommendation
25 that we're not doing enough to get information about
26 cultural use and subsistence out to the visitor public
27 that come to Denali and those that have questions about
28 wolves in Denali and so this brochure that has been put
29 together was based on the SRC's recommendation and if you
30 have any interest I have some extras here you can pick up
31 on your way out.

32

33 Also a couple of years ago I mentioned a
34 number of studies that the Park was doing in conjunction
35 with the tribal councils and elders and communities around
36 Denali. We're starting to see the products of those now.
37 I have with me copies of the ethnographic overview and
38 assessment work that's been done at Denali. I'll leave
39 this with your coordinator or if any of you have a
40 particular interest, you can pick that up.

41

42 As part of that project, we also worked
43 with the tribal councils of Cantwell, Nickoli, Talida and
44 Tanana through a separate contract with those tribal
45 councils for them to prepare their own histories in their
46 own words or to identify the things that they felt
47 important for us, as an agency and the public to know about
48 their communities. So with me, also I'll leave with you,
49 the village histories that were prepared.

I'd like to take this time to give special

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1 recognition to Ray Collins who was contracted by the tribal
2 councils of Nickoli and Talida to prepare the village
3 histories for them in conjunction with their elders and the
4 council. You have a very significant piece of work right
5 here by a member of your Council representing those two
6 communities. And I say it is significant in terms of what
7 it documents and also its depth. The ethnographic overview
8 and assessment, if paper is any indication, there was a lot
9 of work and effort that was put into this piece of work.
10 So those are available for any of you that have an interest
11 in looking at those.

12
13 Just a couple other items, we, at Denali,
14 have been concerned that we didn't have good information on
15 community use, profile information for some of our
16 communities around Denali and the information that we have,
17 we were concerned that it was not as in-depth and we will
18 be going into those communities to try to get a more in-
19 depth and fuller record of what the communities use patterns
20 and harvest are. We hire local people in the communities
21 to assist with the interviews and the mapping with that
22 project. We've completed Cantwell and will be going into
23 Lake Minchumina and Talida this year and we'll be going
24 into Nickoli the following years.

25
26 One of the recommendations from Ray Collins
27 at the SRC meeting is that we need to do more together,
28 historical fisheries information as well as traditional
29 ecological knowledge in terms of the fisheries resources
30 associated with Denali. And as such, based on that
31 recommendation we've moved forward a proposal to the Fish
32 and Wildlife Service to pick up that component in our
33 community use profile work and we're very happy to see that
34 that works going to be done.

35
36 The last thing I'd like to mention is that
37 we're going to be hiring an intern to do work in cultural
38 and subsistence resources with me at Denali. This is a
39 full-time position that will have career ladder and
40 advancement elements built into it. So we are just now
41 beginning the process of looking for people who come from
42 our region, who have knowledge and interest for this
43 internship so we'll be recruiting from around our region
44 and we've also made contact with the University, Oscar
45 Quaigely and he's getting us in contact with other people
46 at the campus level who might be good candidates.

47
48 So with that I'll close and, thank you.
49

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Hollis. I do

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1 have one question, do we have any appointments to make or
2 do we make these appointments to your resource committee?

3
4 MR. TWITCHELL: We're in good shape in
5 terms of representation from this region at the Commission.
6 Currently, we have Ray Collins who is on our Commission.
7 He's appointed by the Secretary and we also have Steve
8 Eluska who was just reappointed again by the State from the
9 community of Talida. So we do have representation from
10 both those communities.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the Western Interior does
13 have two people on board then?

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: People from the
16 communities.

17
18 MR. COLLINS: By others, but we are
19 covered.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that was my
22 question, do we appoint or is this different? Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: That internship program, that
25 position will work with you training another subsistence
26 coordinator and you as the mentor to pass on the baton so
27 that we don't have -- that's what I've had a problem with,
28 with the Park Service personnel, is that, we the SRCs, the
29 subsistence users train a position and then that person
30 moves on or goes to Washington or something and we have
31 these breaks. Is this throughout the regionwide Park
32 Service program, this internship program or is that just at
33 Denali?

34
35 MR. TWITCHELL: It's just at Denali and
36 it's directed essentially to try to achieve that sort of
37 balance. We've also had the concerns from our SRCs saying
38 similar things, that if you have someone that's been on the
39 Commission as long as Ray and Florence and Percy, they've
40 seen a lot of superintendents come through the Park Service
41 and other staff, so this is one way we're going to try to
42 achieve a little bit of continuity in terms of persons. I
43 don't think I'm going to go to Washington any time soon but
44 a number of years from now I may move on and we want to
45 ensure the program continues.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Good.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I would commend Denali NPS

50 for that program. I think that that could be a direction

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1 for the Park Service in the future. Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd like to thank
6 Hollis and the Park, too, of all the years I've served on
7 the Advisory Committee. This is what they presented us for
8 the members, a nice Eddie Bauer coat. I just mention that
9 for some of the other agencies that got a lot of
10 volunteers, it's nice to be recognized after a number of
11 years service. Thank you Hollis.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Are there
14 anymore questions? Thank you, again, Hollis. Any other
15 agencies?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think the Park
18 Service has any other reports.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we may be the slowest
21 Council in the state but you will note that we are well
22 informed and if we are not, we make sure that you are, the
23 agencies are, so I'd like to thank all of you for bearing
24 with us. The next item on the agenda would be Council
25 member closings.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: No, it would be
28 correspondence sent and received and that, briefly is under
29 Tab G. And you've had it before you in the mailing and
30 there's a summary there and if there's any questions on
31 correspondence then I can take it now. But it's summarized
32 under Tab G and copies of the letter are there also.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council members, closing
35 comments and concerns. Do we want to go through this
36 anyway or do we just.....

37
38 MR. COLLINS: I don't have any.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray doesn't have any.

41 Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: I always got something to
44 say. At the Gates of the Arctic SRC level, we passed our
45 hunting plan that we've been working on, it's a lot like
46 Denali has produced. And that hunting plan will be very
47 beneficial to the management of the subsistence resources
48 in the park. It's a living document so we can adjust and
49 fine-tune it in the future. Our last SRC meeting for Gates

50 of the Arctic was around the middle of November and it was

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1 a fairly productive meeting. And Pollack Simon is chair of
2 that SRC and does a very good job. He's one of our longer
3 standing members and I've only been on there 10 years but
4 Pollack does an excellent job as chair and he is appointed
5 by this Council. So that's my comment on the Gates of the
6 Arctic SRC.

7
8 I think we've had a very productive meeting
9 here this cycle. And I feel we might spend a little more
10 time than some of the other councils but we get some pretty
11 good work done, too, but that's just part of the job is
12 limping in here and toughing it out. So we might be the
13 slowest one but I think we've had a very productive meeting
14 and I appreciate all the work that the Council members have
15 put in and all the work that the Staff has put into these
16 meetings. There's a lot of time, I realize the weeks of
17 time that's put into these analysis so I appreciate all
18 that. And hopefully that we're going to make some
19 difference here for the benefit of the resource and the
20 users.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for those kind
25 words, Jack. And again, just to reiterate what Jack says,
26 we might be the slowest because I've been barking at all
27 the other Chairs because -- letting them know specifically
28 that we have four distinct different cultures within our
29 region, Western Interior. We have people of all colors and
30 races up and down and within our boundaries and that's one
31 of the reasons that we are slow and we will give people
32 time to express their concerns. Anymore Council concerns.
33 Again, thank you, Jack. Next item on our agenda is
34 meeting, place and time.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, under Tab
37 H you have a calendar. The window for meetings of fall are
38 September 10th through October 19th. So if you look at
39 that calendar, and Eastern Interior has selected the dates
40 of October 9, 10, 11 and you have Staff that overlaps both
41 regions so that time is pretty much taken up. And also I
42 need to let you know that AFN is scheduled for October 14th
43 through 20th.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

46
47 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I suggest we
48 look at the week of October 2, 3, 4, in there, and I would
49 also suggest you consider McGrath, it's been quite a while

50 since we met there, that you might give us some

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1 consideration. But there may be other suggestions, I don't
2 want to preempt anybody else that has other suggestions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, for your
5 concerns. We had inked in McGrath for this meeting.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: But then with the fisheries
10 and Iditarod we changed it here to have a joint meeting
11 with the Eastern Interior. So without further adieu it
12 will be in McGrath. Our fall meeting will be in McGrath.
13 I just question the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, because do you think
14 we'll have all the data on the fall hunting and fishing
15 stuff?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: No, you wouldn't have all the
18 data from the fall hunts that transpired in September, if
19 that's what you're asking.

20

21 MR. SHERROD: They'll be taking up fish.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, right, and the other
24 thing I need to point out is that it's getting hard for us
25 Staff to keep track of this but basically the intent of the
26 fall meeting will be to look at proposals from the
27 fisheries side that will be before you as well as looking
28 at wildlife issues. So the main point on the fall meeting
29 will be dealing with fish proposals. And, to-date, and
30 that's just until today, we've only received one proposal
31 but we're projecting that when the due date comes a lot
32 closer there'll be a lot more proposals for you to look at
33 on fishery issues on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. So would
36 it be okay for all the Council members to meet on October
37 2nd, 3rd and 4th at McGrath? Is this a consensus?

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

40

41 (Nods affirmatively and unanimously)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, McGrath 2nd through
44 the 4th. I don't want to meet into the weekends anyway.
45 Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to
48 kind of going to put Henry on the hot seat here. If I
49 understand correctly, this will be Henry's last meeting.

50 As you know there's three seats open on the Council and

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1 each of those members have the opportunity to reapply.
2 Henry, I believe, is retiring from this process so he may
3 want to have some parting words or he may have parting
4 words at me, I'm not sure which, but if I understand
5 correctly this would be his last meeting.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry, do you have some
8 words for us?

9 MR. DEACON: Well, yeah, I was kind of --
10 the reason I -- I'm kind of having second thoughts now, but
11 it's too late, you know. Because I really enjoy this
12 meeting here because it involves our way of life in the
13 village. And we as a Federal agency, you know, it's very
14 interesting for me. But I was too late to reapply and I
15 kind of thought about it, because I'd like to see younger
16 people take over, it's got to be that way. And it's my
17 wish to see people like you that take really interest. I
18 have interest, too, but you know, I'm 72 years old, so, you
19 know, can go any time. But you know, I really enjoy this
20 and now I kind of have second thoughts and I might apply
21 yet, just write-in, you know?

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Henry, I talked to several
26 supervisors, no, the window's closed. I got on bending
27 knee and didn't get anywhere. No, the window's closed for
28 this round, you could reapply next year. But Henry, there
29 was quite a few from your area that did apply. I won't go
30 through all the names but it's more than we've had at any
31 other time that we've had any nominations and Henry, I know
32 you were behind that because they used your name when they
33 called me for applications. So that's what I would
34 appreciate and the program appreciates, when a member
35 potentially decides to move on to other things that they
36 encourage others to apply, that helps us tremendously
37 because we have to cover geographic diversity and you want
38 representation across the region. So I know that you
39 talked to a lot of these gentlemen that applied because
40 they said, yeah, Henry told me to apply.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: I, too, would like to thank
43 Henry for doing. I've been calling and calling people from
44 that area to, to not only apply but to express their
45 concerns and until they started doing that today, it made
46 me happy that we went ahead and did what they wanted us to
47 do, which was to help Henry on this last proposal. I would
48 just like to recognize Henry as an elder, too, that our
49 elders, that when they think they're going to retire, they

50 start asking younger people to step in and I'd like to

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1 thank Henry for doing that. Thank you, Henry.

2

3 MR. DEACON: Thank you

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Just adjournment is next
8 unless someone else.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not yet, I've got one. I'd
11 like to thank Vince for putting on the dinner for both the
12 Eastern Interior and Western Interior and the agency staff.
13 I think we got some positive feedback from sitting around
14 out there. Any more closing comments. Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Since this is Henry's last
17 time with us I appreciate your dedication to coming to our
18 meetings and understanding all the issues with us. And
19 that statement that you could go at any time, is not true,
20 that you'll have many more years and see the return of the
21 king salmon to the Yukon River and the chum salmon. So I
22 appreciate your work here, Henry.

23

24 MR. DEACON: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more comments.
27 Benedict.

28

29 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd just like to thank
30 Henry for serving with us for the last three years that
31 I've been with -- and I'd like to thank the committee for
32 selecting me to work with the Western Caribou Herd Working
33 Committee, which I was involved with the Koyukuk River
34 moose management planning committee for the last two years.
35 And I appreciate you for appointing me to the Western
36 Caribou Herd, which I've learned quite a bit on how the
37 satellite tracking and all that and what's the mortality of
38 the caribou and all that. I think we did a lot in this
39 meeting and I want to thank all the Staff and everybody.
40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
43 closing comment. If not, the Chair will entertain a motion
44 to adjourn. Is there a motion?

45

46 MR. JONES: I make a motion.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion by
49 Benedict, is there a second?

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1 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack. Without
4 further adieu, all those in favor of adjournment signify by
5 saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all again for your
13 attendance and your perseverance in bearing with us. Thank
14 you.

15

16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

17

* * * * *

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5
6

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 156 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR
13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken
14 electronically by Salena Hile on the 9th day of March 2001,
15 beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Faribanks,
16 Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th day of March 2001.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04